

2025

SUMMER Adventure GUIDE



Calm morning on Lake Darling, ND
KRISTIN COOPER PHOTO

northersentry
MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

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The Northern Plains National Heritage Area points visitors to the natural, cultural, recreational and historic sites along the Missouri River in central North Dakota. For a deep dive of the sites you absolutely need to visit, come to the Northern Plains National Heritage Area's Orientation Headquarters at the Landing, 1700 River Road N., in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Explore the region's heritage first hand!

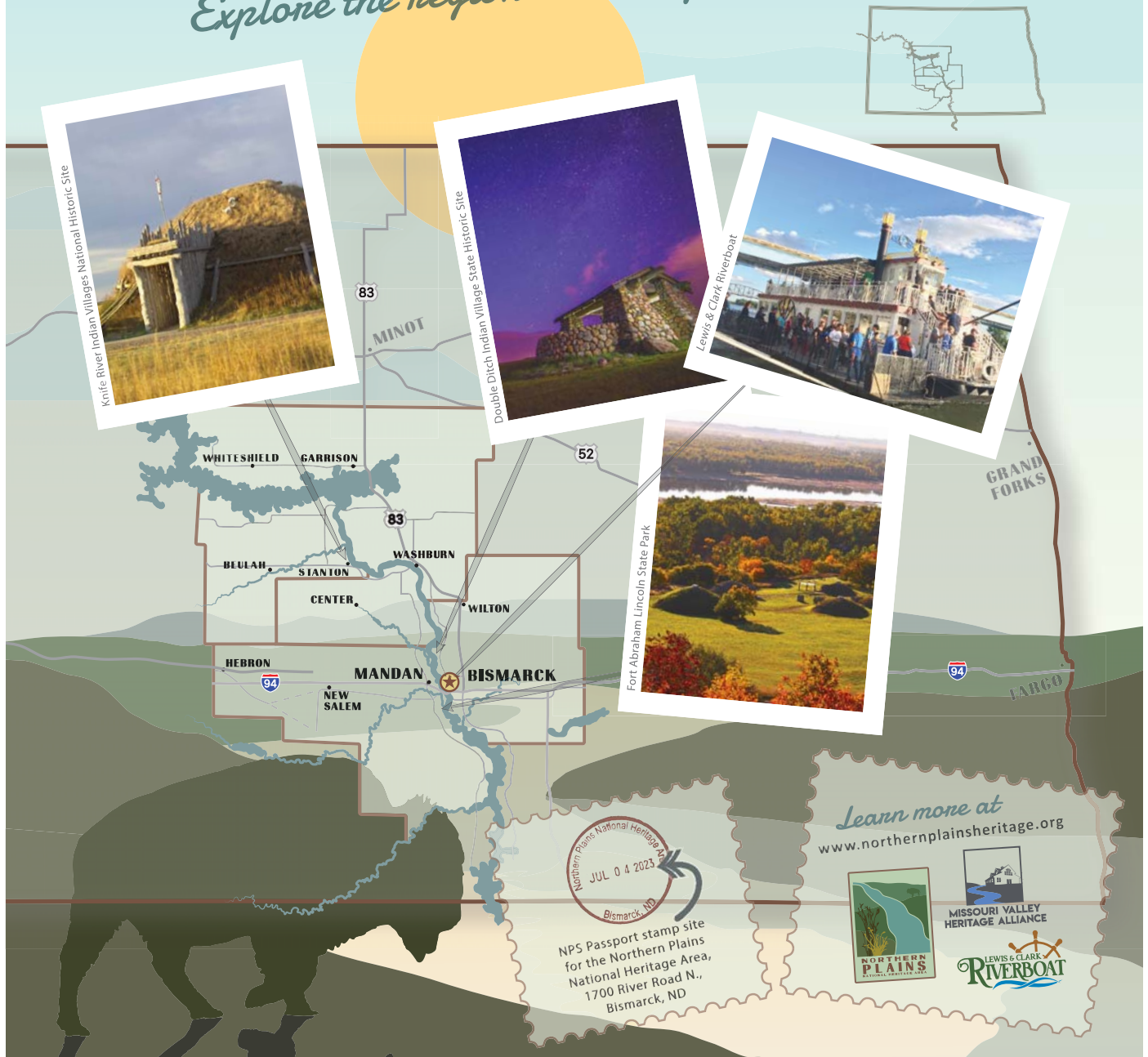


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sunflower field outside Minot, ND
Ashley Vanley Photography

Welcome	5	North Dakota Fishing	31
On the Cover		North Dakota State Parks, Camping & Lakes	37
The Coopers: Why Minot Meant So Much	7	North Dakota Day Trips	41
The Beauty is There, Just Look for It	8	North Dakota Zoos	43
Making the Most of Minot's Brief Outdoor Growing Season	10	North Dakota Museums	46
North Dakota Gardens	13	Pools & Water Parks	51
Local Parks	14	North Dakota Fairs	53
		Indoor Activities	55
North Dakota Arts	17	North Dakota Golf Courses & Mini Golf	58
North Dakota Historic Sites	20	North Dakota Motorsports	63
North Dakota Scenic Drives	25	Recreational Rentals	65
Road Trip Magic: Exploring North Dakota's Enchanted Highway	26	Explore Medora	66
North Dakota Trails	28	Explore Rugby	70
		Explore Watford City	72
		Explore South Dakota	74

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ADVENTURE**



WELCOME

Hot Tots Military Appreciation Baseball Game

Welcome to North Dakota

In North Dakota we are so very fortunate to experience four distinct and very different seasons. Of course summer is by far the most active time of the year for vacations and weekend trips, but spring and fall also afford those who look for activities the opportunities to get out and enjoy not only North Dakota, but neighboring states of Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota. And let's not forget those neighbors to the north of us in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Summer Adventure guide is one of those "take it along" resources for locating places to go, places to stay, and popular activities. We have even listed a couple of our "Best

kept Secret" locations for those of you who want to take the path less traveled.

In combination with several state agencies, we also offer editorial content that will give a little more information about activities and how to best enjoy them.

We also want to thank our many advertisers who are eager to help you enjoy summer 2025 to it's fullest. Got questions? Give them a call. It is our mid-western personality to give you friendly advice and encouragement.

So summer, here we come. Have a great time and take lots of pictures.



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For a limited time, you can borrow up to \$6,000 with a Vacation Personal Loan to help you find your fun and adventure all summer long.

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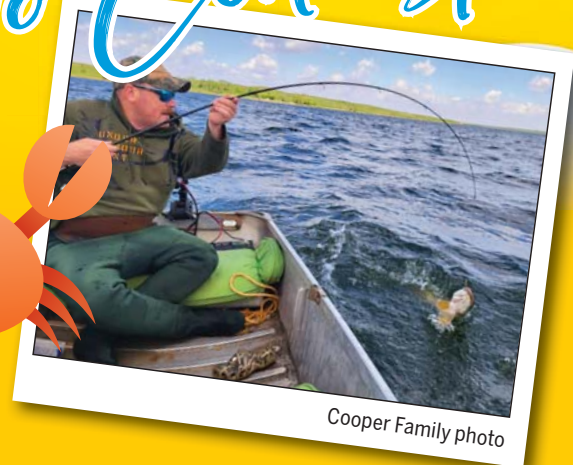
Sensational

SUMMER

Photo Contest



Christina Goodwin photo



Cooper Family photo

There's just something magical about a North Dakota summer. Maybe it's the short season, or maybe it's the sunshine we've all been waiting for—but whatever the reason, summer here is truly special. It's the perfect time to fish, swim, hike, boat, or just enjoy the great outdoors.

Enter the Sensational Summer Photo Contest

and show us your best moments under the North Dakota sun.

We're looking for photos of:

- Backyard fun with the kids
- Splashing at the base pool or playground
- Adventures in Medora or Teddy Roosevelt National Park
- Camping in ND's State Parks
- Family outings at the State Fair or a local baseball game

If it shows summer joy in North Dakota, we want to see it!
***Selected photos may be featured in the Northern SENTRY newspaper and/or on our Facebook page.**

So grab your camera and soak in the season—we can't wait to see your summer through your lens!

WIN \$100 CASH

How to Enter

Submit your photo and who/what/when/where description on our website by using the QR code



CONTEST DETAILS:

- One winner will be selected at random from all entries
- Each photo submitted counts as one entry (limit one photo per person per day)
- Contest runs from **Memorial Day to Labor Day 2025**
- Winner will be notified by **email in September 2025**

- Photos must be taken in **North Dakota during Spring/Summer 2025**
- By entering, you grant the Northern SENTRY permission to use your photo in print, online, and promotional materials
- **Open to Minot AFB assigned members and their dependents only**

The Coopers: Why Minot Meant So Much

ERIN BEENE

It was a beautiful summer morning on Lake Darling, and the wind had finally died down enough for eight-year-old Waylon to try kayaking solo for the first time. “Seeing my son’s confidence and watching him explore was so exciting. It was also a rare glimpse at a windless North Dakota moment,” said Kristen Cooper, who captured the winning photo that ultimately landed on the front cover of the Northern Sentry’s Summer Adventure Guide.

Even though the Cooper family—Chief Master Sergeant Rusty Cooper, his wife Kristen, and their son Waylon—has since moved away from Minot AFB, they made the most of their time there. Kristen explained that they are an “all-in” type of family, always seeking out the unique joys of every assignment. To their surprise, finding joy in Minot was much easier than expected, despite the base’s infamous reputation.

Kristen gushed about North Dakota summers and the tight-knit Minot community, both on and off base. Their absolute favorite activity was attending Minot Hot Tots games, which quickly became a summer tradition. “We went to several games each summer and loved every minute of it,” she said. “Despite what some may think about Minot, our summers were jam-packed with activities.” She praised the local community, saying, “The Minot community outdoes itself with the variety of activities for a small town. There is never a dull moment!” The Coopers left Minot in April 2025, but Kristen was heartbroken to miss out on one more beautiful North Dakota summer.

The Coopers were also deeply involved with Northern Sentry’s community outreach programs from the start. “The Northern Sentry was a big part of us finding our joy here,” Kristen said. They picked up the 2023 Summer Adventure Guide and used it to plan their outings, making the most of everything Minot had to offer. She emphasized that an open-minded approach is key to enjoying Minot, saying, “Go in with that mentality, utilize these resources, take advantage of the Northern Sentry’s Summer and Winter Guides—and you’ll have an amazing experience!”

With plenty of affordable and free activities available year-round, Minot and Minot AFB offer a uniquely rewarding experience for military families. Before leaving, Kristen shared some advice for those new to the base: “Don’t try to make Minot something it’s not. If you do, you won’t enjoy it.” Instead, she encouraged new arrivals to embrace all that Minot has to offer—especially during the summer—because “there’s way more to do here than you think!”

ON THE COVER



The Cooper Family, CMSgt Rusty Cooper, Kristen, and Waylon absolutely loved their time at Minot AFB!

During the summertime, the fields around Minot blaze with gold from the yearly sunflowers.

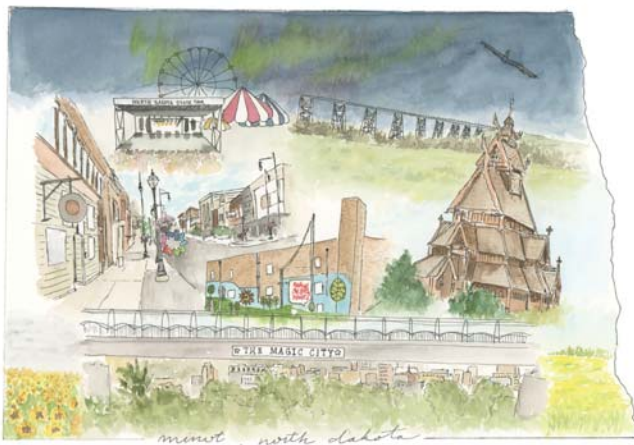
The Beauty Is There, Just Look for It

ERIN BEENE

What comes to mind when you're asked to name the most beautiful state in the U.S.? Do you picture Maine's vibrant fall foliage, Colorado's snow-covered Rockies, or perhaps the sparkling, endless beaches of Hawaii? These destinations are well known for their breathtaking natural landscapes. But let's take a wild guess, North Dakota probably didn't crack your top 10, did it?

Most people don't think of North Dakota as particularly majestic. The common image is one of flat, empty plains dotted with cows and blasted by bone-chilling wind in the winter. Honestly, that's not entirely wrong. But this quiet, fourth-least-populated state holds a hidden kind of beauty that you don't truly discover until you're living in it. And that's the magic. It's exactly the quiet, untouched openness that makes North Dakota so unique.

The beauty here looks different. It feels different. But if you take a moment to slow down and really see it, beyond the surface, you just might fall in love with it too.



Minot Sights to See. "I wanted something that would be a great memento for people when they PCS from here. It features many of the major places that people know of when they think of Minot."

The Most Beautiful Things About North Dakota:

The Vast Sky.

With few buildings and little urban sprawl, the land feels almost untouched by time. On a summer day, the wind rolls softly across endless prairies, and the sky stretches wide in every direction. The daylight lingers late into the evening, almost until 11 p.m., and the air is so crisp and clean, it makes you feel fully alive.

The People.

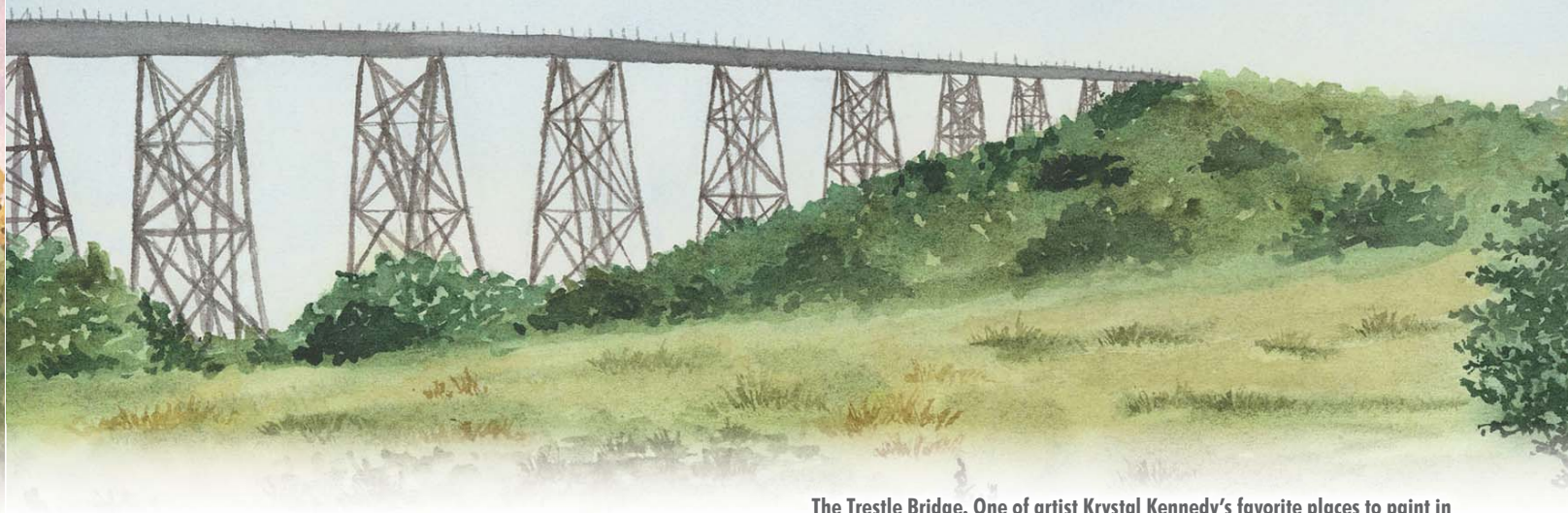
There may not be a large population here, but the people who are here genuinely want to be. They're warm, happy, and curious about you. Unlike some tourist destinations where locals grow weary of visitors or newcomers, North Dakotans welcome others with open arms. The culture is a perfect blend of Southern hospitality and Midwestern kindness, wrapped up in a strong sense of community.

The Attitude.

Yes, the winters are rough. But the summers? Absolutely dreamy. From May through September, people take full advantage of every warm, sunny day. They go camping, take fishing trips, plan lakeside getaways, or simply enjoy their backyard. Life slows down. The pace softens. There's a shared sense of "just enjoy it" that you don't find everywhere. It feels like a collective exhale after a long, cold season—and the joy is contagious.



The iconic "falling barn" along Highway 83 is a frequent topic of conversation among military families, many of whom wonder when it will finally give in to the wind and collapse for good.



The Trestle Bridge. One of artist Krystal Kennedy's favorite places to paint in Minot. She has watercolors of the bridge in every season!

The Land.

Despite the old "flat and boring" stereotype, North Dakota offers a surprisingly varied landscape. A century ago, homesteaders rushed west to farm this land. Though many have moved on, their abandoned barns and buildings still stand, weathered and hauntingly beautiful. Before them, the Dakota (Sioux) and Chippewa tribes called this region home, living off the prairie, buffalo, and rivers that defined it. Today, North Dakota includes a corner of Badlands National Park, the rolling buttes of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and even the lush Turtle Mountains in the north.

North Dakota may not be what most would call "classically beautiful," but that's what makes it so special. Its beauty is raw, quiet, and deeply rooted in simplicity, and it's something only those who live here and choose to look for it will ever truly understand.

**The images attached to this story are watercolor prints done by mil spouse artist, Krystal Kennedy. Her artwork can be viewed and purchased at krystalkennedyart.com*

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Making the Most of Minot's Brief Outdoor Growing Season

MAFB Outdoor Recreation offers rentable community garden plots for those who are up to the challenge of growing in a larger space.

KERRIANNE NOEL

Summertime in Minot is the perfect time to get outside. Many members of Team Minot will set out to enjoy camping, hiking and State as well as National Parks. It is also the perfect time to connect with nature by planting a garden. But with its shorter growing season, colder winter temperatures, and unwelcome garden visitors, figuring out how to get started can feel daunting.

The first consideration in Minot for outdoor gardening is the climate. Ward County falls under the USDA plant hardiness zone 4a. This means the average low temperature range in the winter falls between -25 and -30 degrees Fahrenheit. It gets colder at times, but this average temperature zone is what affects the plants and soil. Another important consideration are the last and first frost dates of the season. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the last frost date falls about May 15th, with potential for frosty mornings returning around September 27th. On average, residents can enjoy a growing season of about 134 days each summer.

Next consideration for gardeners is space. Pots, in-ground gardens, and raised beds can all be seen around MAFB. For the more ambitious (or a group of friends looking to share the work) the base's Outdoor Recreation center offers 10-foot by 20-foot community garden plots. These become available to the general public from May 5-16 and can be rented for the entire growing season at a flat fee of \$20. A word to the wise: choose a space near one of the limited hose spigots for easier watering, and be prepared for lots and lots of weeding.

But where to purchase plants and gardening supplies? Those on a budget may prefer to shop at big box stores, but local garden centers are often the safer bet in terms of plant health and suitability to Minot's climate. Lowes Garden Center

and Green Thumb Greenhouse are favorites of many local gardeners. Prairie Bistro and Gardens in Mohall, ND is a longer drive, but offers a tasty lunch menu and engaging community events, that make for a fun mini adventure. Local stores stock a variety of plants May through mid June, after which they offer less of everything and generally no longer carry vegetables.

An easy way to get a head start on Minot's growing season is to start seeds inside - sometimes as early as late March. These seedlings can be brought outside on warmer days to 'harden off.' Experienced gardeners may want to try their luck and plant before the last frost date to extend their season. This requires keeping an eye on overnight temperatures and having a cover on hand if frost threatens. Cool season crops like peas or kale are great, safer choices for this approach.

Herbs and flowers are great options for those who are planting a bit later in the growing season.





Square foot gardening and companion planting can help make the most of your backyard raised bed.



Minot local greenhouses include plants particularly suited to the area's climate and growing season.

A few gardening basics: Most plants want soil that drains well and has the right balance of nutrients. All seedlings will experience 'transplant shock' for up to two weeks. When they finally take off, Minot's longer daylight will cause rapid growth. Fertilize at the beginning of the season and at least once more about halfway through. Water deeply, with slightly less frequency, aiming at the base of the plant and not the leaves. Frequent, shallow watering leads to poor root development and weak plants.

Missed out on this initial planting window? Seed packets for quick-growing vegetables like radishes, lettuces, turnips, and beets are an option. Herbs do well in pots and will pay you back in savings at the grocery store. Easy to grow favorites include basil, thyme, oregano and rosemary. At a minimum one can always throw some less expensive annuals or cold tolerant mums into a planter for a bright front door display. This reporter's favorite for any outdoor hangout, if you can find them, are mosquito plants, which can help keep one of summer's less welcome visitors at bay.

Speaking of unwelcome visitors, the number one threat to both garden and sanity in many base residents' experience are the dak rats. These tend to be attracted to tender seedlings of all kinds as well as leafy vegetables such as lettuces. To avoid them entirely, plant their preferred snacks in pots or raised beds that are entirely off the ground. Otherwise, keep your soil well-watered as they prefer digging in dry soil, and sprinkle cayenne pepper around and on any plants you want them to avoid. For larger areas, such as a community plot, planting strong smelling onions and garlic along outside rows is thought to keep them away.

Cicero once said that, "if you have a garden and a library you have everything you need." Ancient intuition has been backed up by modern science. A quick Internet search will reveal a long list of benefits from gardening to include a boost in immunity, improved cognitive function, and better overall mental and

physical health. So get out in the dirt this summer - don't let Minot's shorter growing season stop you from experiencing the joys and benefits of gardening!

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NORTH DAKOTA GARDENS

International Peace Garden

Angelic Garden

Minot, ND | 6200 11th Ave SE | 701-500-7713

Venture through the Walk Through Victorian Garden or visit the Produce garden and Pick your own produce! This ensures that very little goes to waste and that you produce is as fresh as it can possibly be.

Dakota Sun Gardens and Winery

Carrington, ND | 955 73rd Ave. NE | 701-674-3316

Dakota Sun Gardens and Winery has many wines made on site available for tasting and purchase. The wines are also sold at many North Dakota bottle shops. We use as much locally and regionally grown fruits and grapes as possible. The winery is always interested in fruit purchase from other growers. Our extensive gardens and water features exhibit flower and shrubbery displays using natural rock, driftwood, and metal sculpture as accents. Meetings, groups or individuals may be arranged, with prior reservations. Beautiful garden wedding venue. The nominal per person charge includes guided garden tours and wine tastings.

Elaine's Garden and Guesthouse

Balfour, ND | 3238 Highway

A beautifully restored 1915 home with a large porch, veranda, theme-decorated bedrooms, completely furnished for all overnight guests as well as hunters. Acres of hunting land and a warm place to clean your birds. Added attraction on the farm site is a restored one-room schoolhouse and beautiful gardens during the growing season.

Floral Flag Display

International Peace Garden | 10939 Highway 281

The Floral Flag Display is the only display remaining the same each year. The American red, white and blue, stars and stripes and the Canadian red Maple Leaf are located in the Formal Garden area.

International Peace Garden

15 Miles North of Dunseith, ND | 701-263-4390

Since 1932, nestled in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota and Manitoba, the International Peace Garden is one of the continent's most symbolic and scenic attractions. Thousands of tourists flock to this unique tribute to peace and friendship between the United States of America and Canada. The park plants over 150,000 flowers each year. Main features of the garden include an 18-foot floral clock display, fountains, a chime, and twin 120-foot concrete towers straddling the border with a peace chapel at their base. The Arma Sifton bells were a gift from Central United Church of Brandon, Manitoba, in 1972. The tower was supplied by North Dakota Veterans and dedicated in 1976. Some building remains of the World Trade Center attacks of September 11, 2001, have been placed in part of the garden. The International Peace Garden, "Like No Other Place on Earth," is a perfect and memorable retreat, where people and nature meet.

Japanese Garden

Grand Forks, ND | 11th Avenue and 34th Street
701-746-2750

This lovely and unique garden - featuring the beauty of rocks, water, hills, trees and plants - graces the landscape of Sertoma Park. A gift from the residents of Grand Forks' sister city, Awano, Japan, it commemorates the recovery from the 1997 Red River Valley flood.

Rainbow Garden & Sculpture Walk

Mayville, ND | 367 3rd St SW (HWY 200)

Rainbow Garden has seven plots, each demonstrating a different theme. Their goal is that the variety in the gardens gives visitors ideas for their own yards. The seven gardens are The English Garden, The White Garden, The Cottage Garden, The Rock Garden, The Children's Garden, The Herb Garden, and The Labyrinth. Since they have become fairly competent at the craft of gardening, they have graduated to the art of design by concentrating on color, texture, shape and arrangement. They are building a collection of commissioned sculptures from artists around the nation. Currently there are 15 sculptures and poems in the Sculpture Walk.

Sunken Garden

International Peace Garden | 10939 Highway 281

Interestingly, a series of five uniform terraces extend down to the Sunken Garden area. Located in the center of each terrace are small pools that have connecting water channels that spill into each pool on the next level. So ultimately, water flows from one ornamental pool on each terrace to the next, and finally down to the reflecting octagon shaped pond in the center of the Sunken Garden, where the water is pumped back to the first terrace to begin its round again! Along the mazed walkways of The Sunken Garden are two stone garden houses financed by the North Dakota and U.S. National Homemakers' Clubs. The placement of these original houses marks the Avenues of America and Canada and both leads to their respective countries. Thousands of perennials, flowering shrubs and annuals fill the mosaic-like beds surrounding the focal pond in the Sunken Garden. Within walking distance is the Interpretive Center housing the cafe, retail store, moderate horticultural library and conservatory.

Northern Plains Botanic Garden

Fargo, ND | 1201 28th Ave N | 701-281-2568

Open throughout the year from sunrise until sunset and free to the public, the Botanic Garden is an incredible destination for those in the entire region. It consists of 7 separate gardens including the Woodland Garden, Alerus Financial Butterfly Garden, Chrysanthemum Test Garden, Alphabet Garden, Rain Garden, The Turnaround Garden, Seeds of Opportunity Garden and a humming bird patio. The next project slated is the development of the Garden of Mind which is a Japanese-style garden.



LOCAL PARKS

Scandinavian Heritage Park

Dakota Bark Park

Minot, ND | 2905 7th Ave SW

The Dakota Bark Park features three fenced in play areas as well as benches and convenient bags to pick up after your pooch.

Green Valley Park

Minot, ND | Souris Drive & 27th St SE

Green Valley Park features a Basketball Court, Tennis Court, Playground and Bathroom Facilities.

Hammond Park

Minot, ND | 8th Ave & 3rd St NE

Hammond Park features Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, a Playground, Picnic Shelter and Restrooms.

Leach Park

Minot, ND | 2400 Block of 2nd Ave SW

Leach Park features Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Horseshoes, Playgrounds, a Picnic Shelter and Bathroom Facilities.

Moose Park

Minot, ND | 400 9th St SW

Moose Park features a Playground, Picnic Shelter, Sand Volleyball Court, Horseshoe Pit and Bathroom Facilities.

Oak Park

Minot, ND | 11th to 14th Block of 4th Ave NW

Oak Park features a Playground, Sand Volleyball Court, Splash Pad, Band Shelter, Amphitheater, Trails and Picnic Shelters.

Old Settlers Park

Burlington, ND | 305 Park Rd

Old Settlers Park features Camping, Baseball, Volleyball, Horseshoes and Fishing.

Polaris Park

Minot, ND | 712 26th Ave NW

Polaris Park is home to a disc golf course, playground, skate park, picnic shelter and a baseball field.

Radio City Park

Minot, ND | 37th Ave SE & 2nd St

Radio City Park features a Splash Pad, Basketball Court, Tball Practice Field, Playground, Picnic Shelters, Open Space and Restrooms.

Riverside Park

Minot, ND | Alley South of Cortland Drive

Basketball Courts, Playground, Picnic Shelter and Restroom.

Roosevelt Park

Minot, ND | 1215 E Burdick Expy

Roosevelt Park features a Zoo, Swimming Pool, Sand Volleyball, Gardens, Picnic Shelters, Band Shelter, Playground, Magic City Express, Tennis Courts, Trails and Fishing Docks. Please expect some detours and closures as improvements to the area are expected throughout 2025.

Scandinavian Heritage Park

Minot, ND | South Broadway & 11th Ave SW | 852-9161

Scandinavian Heritage Center features, Picnic Shelters and Restrooms.

Velva City Park

Velva, ND | 112 2nd Ave W

The Velva City Park features Picnic Shelters, Tennis and HorseShoe Courts with a Walking Bridge connecting to the Recreation Complex including Softball, Football and Baseball Fields, Outdoor Swimming Pool and Modern RV Hookups.

Scandinavian Heritage Park
Midsummer Festival
June 20-22

free family fun

Get Your Viking On

This **two-day festival** celebrates the longest day of the year with evening bonfires, a Midsummer Pole, good food, a beer garden, music, arts & crafts, and kids activities.

You can enjoy vendors, demonstrations, workshops, games, and friendly competitions in this stunning 14-acre park.

scandinavianheritage.org

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Scandinavian Heritage Park
scandinavianheritage.org



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NORTH DAKOTA ARTS

MSU Summer Theatre

Arts in the Parks

Minot, ND | Oak Park -305 4th Ave NW

www.minotarts.org

From mid-June through early August, this program offers something for all ages and interests in a relaxed outdoor setting. On Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons and evenings, the Minot Area Council of the Arts hosts musical and visual arts presentations.

Artspace Suite 1 Gallery

Minot, ND | 3 Main St. S Suite 1

Hours: Thurs. & Fri. 2:30-5:30pm, Sat. 11am-4pm

From mid-June through early August, this program offers something for all ages and interests in a relaxed outdoor setting. On Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons and evenings, the Minot Area Council of the Arts hosts musical and visual arts presentations.

Bismarck Art and Galleries Assoc

Bismarck, ND | 422 E. Front Ave | www.bismarck-art.org

Hours: Tues. - Fri. 10am-5pm, Sat. 1pm-3pm. Closed

Saturdays between Memorial Day to Labor Day

Art gallery serving the Bismarck-Mandan area. With monthly exhibits of local, regional and national artists provided a wide spectrum of interests.

Bismarck Downtown Artist Co-op

Bismarck, ND | 222 North 4th Street, Suite 202

www.bismarckdac.com

Hours: Thurs. 12-8pm, Fri. 12pm-6pm, Sat. 10am-4pm

Downtown Artist Cooperative is an art gallery and working studio space operated by and for local artists.

Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra

Bismarck, ND | 215 North 6th St

www.bismarckmandansymphony.org

Symphony orchestra serving central and western North Dakota.

Dakota Stage, Ltd

Bismarck, ND | 412 E Main Ave

www.dakotastageltd.com

Community theatre serving the Bismarck-Mandan area.

Fargo Theatre

Fargo, ND | 314 Broadway N

www.fargotheatre.org

Theatre which shows films and live performances and houses the Fargo-Film Festival.

Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre

Fargo, ND | 202 1st Ave N Moorhead | www.fmct.org

Community theatre serving the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Fargo-Moorhead Symphony

Fargo, ND | 848 3rd Ave S

www.fmsymphony.org

Symphony orchestra serving the Fargo-Moorhead region.

Fargo-Moorhead Opera

Fargo, ND | 21 8th Street S. | www.fmopera.org

Opera company serving the Fargo-Moorhead region.

Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra

Grand Forks, ND | www.ggfso.org

Symphony orchestra serving Grand Forks area.

International Music Camp

www.internationalmusiccamp.com

Summer School of Fine Arts, in the International Peace Gardens. Study music, dance, creative writing, painting, drawing, etc.

James Memorial Art Center

Williston, ND | 621 1st Ave West

www.thejamesmemorial.org

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9am-3pm, Fri. 12pm-5pm, Sat. Closed,

Sun. 1pm-5pm Sept.-Apr. Closed Sun. May-Aug.

To share art and culture with the community of Williston, North Dakota while preserving the historic building known as The James Memorial Art Center.

Mouse River Players

Community Theatre

Minot, ND | 115 1st St. SE

www.mouseriverplayers.com

Mouse River Players is an all-volunteer community theatre organization. We are dedicated to providing live, quality theatre experiences, at an affordable cost, to the community of Minot and the surrounding rural areas.

NORTH DAKOTA ARTS



Burning Hill Amphitheatre

Medora Musical

Medora, ND | 3422 Chateau Rd
www.medora.com

Located behind the MSU Dome, MSU Summer Theatre performs multiple plays and musicals each June and July.

Minot Symphony Orchestra

Minot, ND | 500 University Ave W
www.minotsymphony.com

A university and community orchestra serving the Minot area.

MSU Summer Theater

Minot, ND | 500 University Ave W
www.minotstateu.edu/theatre

Located behind the MSU Dome, MSU Summer Theatre performs multiple plays and musicals each June and July.

North Dakota Museum of Art

Grand Forks, ND | 261 Centennial Drive
www.ndmoa.com

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat.-Sun. 1pm-5pm
Serves as the official art museum of the State of North Dakota. The Museum's purpose is to foster and nurture the aesthetic life and artistic expression of the people living on the Northern Plains.

Northwest Art Center

Minot, ND | 500 University Ave W
www.minotstateu.edu/nac/

Minot State University is home to two art galleries managed by the Northwest Art Center; one located in Hartnett Hall the other in the Library. Best known for its diverse contemporary and traditional art, The Northwest Art Center hosts exhibitions by local, regional, national, and international artists.

Plains Art Museum

Fargo, ND | 704 1st Ave N | www.plainsart.org
Hours: Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri. 11am-5pm,
Thurs. 11am-9pm, Sat & Sun. 10am-5pm
Art gallery serving the Fargo-Moorhead region.

Sleepy Hollow Theatre & Arts Park

Bismarck, ND | 2899 E Divide Ave | www.shst.org
Summer theatre serving Bismarck-Mandan.

Taube Museum of Art

Minot, ND | 2 N. Main Street | www.taubemuseum.org
Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10:30am-5:30pm, Sat. 11am-4pm

The Taube Museum offers a full range of art classes throughout the year for kids aged 9 months through adults. There are also Paint the Town Red classes for adults who want to make a night of it with wine and instructed painting. Since there are two galleries, the main gallery & the lower gallery, the Taube is able to accommodate a vast amount of art. They also have a gift shop full of local art.

The Arts Center

Jamestown, ND | 115 2nd Street SW
www.jamestownarts.com

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00am-5:00pm, Sat. 10:00am-2:00pm
Jamestown area arts organization. Providing a wide variety of arts activities, exposure and experience for every age group and skill level.

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SUN, JUNE 15 4PM & 7PM MINOT CITY BAND Oak Park	THUR, JUNE 19 5:30PM MADIE ROBERTS 7PM TY & JERILYN OF MENDENHALL CROSSING Downtown Minot	SUN, JUNE 22 4PM & 7PM MINOT CITY BAND Oak Park
THUR, JUNE 26 5:30PM INTERNATIONAL BRASS QUINTET 7PM MINOT CITY BAND Downtown Minot	SUN, JUNE 29 4PM JERRY SCHLAGG 7PM WILD HANDS Oak Park	SUN, JULY 6 4PM & 7PM MINOT CITY BAND Oak Park
THUR, JULY 10 5:30PM SWING BAND 7PM LEGION OF SOUND Downtown Minot	SUN, JULY 13 4PM & 7PM MINOT CITY BAND Oak Park	THUR, JULY 17 7PM MINOT CITY BAND Oak Park Sousa Concert
SUN, JULY 20 7PM 188TH ARMY BAND NORTH DAKOTA GUARD Oak Park	SUN, JULY 27 MINOT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BEAT BEETHOVEN 5K RUN 5PM 7PM SOULSHINE Oak Park	
THUR, AUG 7 5:30PM SOUND OF INDEPENDENCE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION VARIOUS FEATURED ARTISTS Downtown Minot	FINALE! THUR, AUG 21 5:30PM LILA BEA 7PM LITTLE CHICAGO FUNK Downtown Minot	

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NORTH DAKOTA HISTORIC SITES

Fort Union Trading Post

Chateau de Mores Historic Site

Medora, ND | 3426 Chateau Rd | 701-623-4355

A 26-room, 1883 hunting lodge built by the Marquis de Mores, an entrepreneurial French aristocrat who hoped to find his fortune in the Dakota Territory, overlooks Medora. His meatpacking business failed, but the town he named for his wife, Medora, prospered. The lavish home where he and his wife lived still contains many original furnishings. Eager docents stationed throughout Chateau de Mores State Historic Site offer insights and tours.

Fort Union Trading Post

Williston, ND | 15550 ND-1804 | 701-572-9083

Now reconstructed, Fort Union was the most important fur-trading site on the upper Missouri from 1828 to 1867. A self-guided tour, ranger-guided tours and living history programs are available for visitors.

Fort Totten State Historic Site

Fort Totten, ND | 417 Cavalry Cir | 701-766-4441

The Fort Totten State Historic Site got its start in 1867 when soldiers built a log structure that in no time was enlarged and expanded to include dozens of buildings. There is a lot more history to explore.

Fort Seward Military Post

Jamestown, ND | 605 10th St SW | 701-252-6682

An active military fort from 1872-1877, Fort Seward now houses an interpretive center displaying artifacts excavated from the site's archaeological digs. The grounds are also home to a Veterans' Memorial and scenic views of the James River Valley. Also, the largest United States flag on display in North Dakota flies here when weather permits.

Knife River Indian Villages

Stanton, ND | 564 County Rd 37 | 701-745-3309

Explore a reconstructed, furnished Hidatsa earth lodge, 15 miles of trails and a museum. A rich culture thrived along the banks of the Missouri River in west-central North Dakota when Meriwether Lewis and William Clark arrived in 1804. Today, trails weave through the sage and wildflower-dappled prairie to the remains of villages, including one where Sakakawea lived before she joined Lewis and Clark.

Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center & Fort Mandan Historic Site

Washburn, ND | 2576 8th St SW | 701-462-8535

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark spent more of their epic journey in North Dakota than in any other state. Stop first at the striking Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and take in its exhibits about the expedition and area history. Then, continue to a replica of the fort, authentically reconstructed with 800 cottonwood logs, where the explorers weathered the brutal winter of 1804-1805.

Fort Buford State Historic Site

Near Williston, ND

Here, where two great rivers meet, people have gathered for thousands of years. At the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, take in the history of a place little changed since Lewis and Clark visited two centuries ago. At nearby Fort Buford, tour original and reconstructed building of the military post where Sitting Bull laid down his rifle.

Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site

Cooperstown, ND | 555 113th 1/2 Ave NE
701- 797-3691

The Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site consists of two sites telling the story of the Cold War years in North Dakota; Oscar-Zero Missile Alert Facility and the November-33 Launch Facility. They are the last remnants of the 321st Missile Wing, a cluster of intercontinental ballistic missile launch sites that were spread over a 6,500-square-mile area around the Grand Forks Air Force Base. Both played an integral part in the Cold War in North Dakota and the world.

Fort Abraham Lincoln Custer House & Commissary Bookstore

Mandan, ND | Fort Abraham State Park
701-667-6340

Guided tour of Gen. George and Libbie Custer's home. Self-guided tour of Fort Abraham Lincoln, home of the 7th Cavalry. Commissary Bookstore houses a large collection books about Custer and the history of Fort Abraham Lincoln.



Former Governors' Mansion

Fort Abercrombie

Abercrombie, ND

Fort Abercrombie once served as a gateway to the West and the spear point of the army's advance into the Northern Plains. The original guardhouse and the reconstructed blockhouses and stockade attest to the bloody conflict that spilled into the Dakotas from Minnesota. Explore the buildings and visitor center.

Fort Stevenson Guardhouse

Garrison, ND | 1252A 41st Ave NW | 701-337-5576

The Guardhouse Interpretive Center was reconstructed to tell the story of the frontier military history of Fort Stevenson. Step back in time and experience military life during Frontier Military Days held each year the fourth weekend in June.

Camp Hancock

Bismarck, ND

Before Bismarck, there was Camp Hancock. Once a bustling military supply post and later a weather station, Camp Hancock is now home to the oldest building in Bismarck as well as an 1881 church and locomotive from the glory days of steam transportation.

Former Governors' Mansion

Bismarck, ND

Explore the home of 20 former governors and their families at the Former Governors' Mansion. A lovely staircase leads from the public rooms to private areas where children played, servants worked, and families enjoyed privacy from 1894 to 1960. A carriage house on the lot features exhibits from the time the house was occupied.



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SOMETHING FUN TO DO IN MINOT



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NORTH DAKOTA SCENIC DRIVES

Turtle Mountain Scenic Byway

Chan SanSan Scenic Backway

Begins at Highway 46 and continues south through Adrian, Dickey, Grand Rapids and LaMoure to the intersection of the County Line Road.

Des Lacs Scenic Backway

Begins at US Highway 52, 6 miles south of Kenmare and continues to the north end of the refuge where it terminates at the intersection of Ward County Road 1.

Points of Interest

- Historic Danish Mill: Built in 1902 on a homestead, the Mill was used by area farmers for grinding grains into flour. Now located in the center of the Park on the Square in Kenmare.
- Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center: The visitor center at Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters features displays of local history and native wildlife.
- Munch's Coulee National Recreation Trail: From this trail, excellent bird watching opportunities abound.

Enchanted Highway

Just off of 94 (Exit 72) approximately 20 miles east of Dickinson, ND. Here you will find six sculptures (The Tin Family, Grasshoppers in the Field, Pheasants on the Prairie, Teddy Roosevelt Rides Again, Geese in Flight and The Deer Family) that are spread out along the 32 miles. The works of art are created by Gary Greff, a native of Regent, North Dakota. Make sure to stop in Regent, ND at the Enchanted Highway Gift Shop, the Hettinger County Historical Museum and the Enchanted Castle.

Killdeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway

Begins north of Manning on Highway 22 through Killdeer to Highway 23, then east to New Town.

Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway

Begins at the Mandan Depot on Main Street in Mandan and travels west along Old Highway 10 to Dickinson. There is a 12-mile section of gravel road near Almont known as the Curlew Loop. Caution: 12-foot railroad underpass 11 miles west of Hebron.

Rendezvous Region Scenic Backway

Begins on Highway 55 in Vang proceeding east to Walhalla, turning southeast for 22 miles traveling past Icelandic State Park to Highway 5 ending in Cavalier.

Sakakawea Scenic Byway

This byway highlights fantastic views of the Missouri River Valley along with some of the state's most outstanding Lewis and Clark destinations. Visitors are able to follow the course of this great journey and discover the history and culture of the people who lived in the rolling hills and wooded valleys of the Missouri and Knife Rivers. Begins at Highway 200A from Washburn to Stanton.

Points of Interest

- Fort Clark State Historic Site: protects the archeological remains of a large earth lodge village, cemetery, two fur trade posts, and was the scene of devastating smallpox and cholera epidemics that decimated most of the inhabitants of a Mandan and later an Arikara Indian village.
- Fort Mandan Historic Site: The reconstructed Fort Mandan rests in the riparian forests of the Missouri River and features refurbished rooms filled with the equipment of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. On-site interpreters provide programs and year-round tours of Lewis & Clark's 1804-1805 wintering post.

Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway

Begins at Getchell Township Hall on Barnes County Highway 21, along Highways 17 and 19, through Valley City, proceeding on Highway 21 to Ransom County Highway 13 to Lisbon.

Standing Rock National Native American Scenic Byway

Begins at the Cannonball River and continues south along Highways 1806 and 24 to the South Dakota state line.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit Scenic Byway

This byway provides the colorful North Dakota Badlands as a scenic backdrop with its sweeping vistas of one of the last remnants of wilderness in the Northern Great Plains. Theodore Roosevelt National Park memorializes the 26th president for his enduring contributions to the conservation of our natural resources. Visitors are provided a unique opportunity for wildlife viewing. In the park you will find open prairie, hardwood draws, bison, other wildlife, and the Little Missouri River. Begins 15 miles south of Watford City from US Highway 85 and proceeds west on the scenic drive through the North Unit of the park.

Turtle Mountain Scenic Byway

Begins 3 miles north of Rolla to St. John and proceeds west on County Highway 43 to State Highway 281. Continues west on State Highway 43 until it terminates on State Highway 14.



North Dakota's Enchanted Highway—32 miles of giant metal sculptures handcrafted by local artist Gary Greff.

Road Trip Magic: Exploring North Dakota's Enchanted Highway

NATALY ZARRELLA

When people think of North Dakota, wide-open prairies and rugged badlands often come to mind. But tucked away just off Exit 72 of I-94, between the towns of Gladstone and Regent, lies one of the most unexpected and delightful road trip experiences in the Midwest: the Enchanted Highway.

Stretching 32 miles through golden fields and rolling hills, the Enchanted Highway is a larger-than-life outdoor art exhibit featuring a series of massive metal sculptures—some as tall as a six-story building. Created by local artist and former school principal Gary Greff, the project began in 1989 with a simple dream: to breathe new life into his declining hometown of Regent and draw travelers off the interstate to explore the heart of North Dakota.

Greff, a self-taught artist, found inspiration in local wildlife, history, and community pride. Using scrap metal and a powerful imagination, he began welding together what would become some of the world's largest scrap metal sculptures. Over the decades, Greff has built and maintained the sculptures largely by hand—welding, sandblasting, and painting every detail himself.

What started as a single installation has since grown into a beloved attraction that captures the attention and admiration of thousands of visitors each year.

Each sculpture along the route tells a story—some whimsical, some nostalgic, and all unforgettable. Here's what you can expect on this magical journey:

- **Geese in Flight (Exit 72 off I-94):** Towering 110 feet tall and 154 feet wide, this dazzling display of geese flying across a sunburst holds the Guinness World Record for the largest metal sculpture in the world. The access road is lined with 200 smaller geese, guiding you onto the highway.

- **Deer Crossing (100 Ave SW):** This scene features a pair of deer mid-leap, symbolizing the beauty and agility of North Dakota's wildlife.

- **Grasshoppers in the Field:** A giant 60-foot grasshopper dominates the prairie, surrounded by smaller grasshoppers, paying tribute to the area's agricultural roots and the bugs that are part of farm life.

- **Fisherman's Dream:** A 70-foot trout bursts out of stylized water in a vivid scene that celebrates outdoor recreation and fishing culture.

- **Pheasants on the Prairie:** A colorful family of pheasants—a 40-foot rooster, a 35-foot hen, and two chicks—stand proudly against the open sky, capturing a slice of life on the plains.

- **Theodore Roosevelt Rides Again:** A salute to North Dakota's favorite adopted son, this sculpture features a massive figure of Roosevelt on horseback, accompanied by a stagecoach and other elements from the frontier era.

- **The Tin Family:** One of the most beloved installations, the Tin Family features a 45-foot-tall father holding a pitchfork, a 44-foot-tall mother with a purse, and a 23-foot-tall son holding a lollipop. It's a tribute to hardworking farm families and classic Americana



Tin Man: "The World's Largest Tin Family", which can be found on the Enchanted Highway in North Dakota

NORTH DAKOTA SCENIC DRIVES



Cooper Family stop at Fisherman's Dream on the Enchanted Highway!!

As if the Enchanted Highway wasn't magical enough, a brand-new attraction is being unveiled in Summer 2025: "The Knight and the Dragon."

This dramatic installation brings a medieval twist to the prairie, featuring a towering knight in shining armor defending the Enchanted Castle from a fearsome metal dragon. With intricate detailing, dramatic scale, and imaginative storytelling, this sculpture promises to become a new favorite for both kids and adults. It will be located just beyond The Tin Family, making it the final (and perhaps most fantastical) stop before reaching Regent, North Dakota. The journey ends in the quaint town of Regent at the Enchanted Castle, where visitors can explore the Gift Shop and Motel for souvenirs, snacks, and a whimsical place to stay. Styled like a medieval castle, this whimsical destination offers souvenirs, snacks, and even lodging for those who want to spend a night in a fairy-tale setting. It's the perfect way to end your adventure—or to rest up before heading back out on the open road.

Tips for Travelers

- **Distance from Minot:** The Enchanted Highway is approximately 165 miles (about a 2.5-hour drive) southwest of Minot. With a round trip of around 5 hours this is a perfect day trip.
- **Flexible Route:** There's no wrong way to enjoy the Enchanted Highway! You can turn around at any point along the route if you're short on time or just want a shorter trip, each sculpture is accessible and enjoyable on its own.



Residents of Minot AFB Sadie and Laijla Tilstra visiting at Geese in Flight: Enchanted Highway sculpture off Exit 72 of I-94.



The Enchanted Highway newest sculpture which should be completed by Summer 2025.

- **Timing:** Summer is the best season to visit, with clear skies, green fields, and ideal road trip weather.
 - **Photos:** Be sure to stop and take photos at each sculpture—parking areas are available and safe to pull into.
 - **Gas & Snacks:** Fill up before you start the drive, as services are limited along the route. The nearest gas station is 14 miles west at the Cenex in Richardton, or you can find additional options in Dickinson or at the end of the Enchanted Highway in Regent, ND. Services are limited along the route, so plan ahead.
 - **Restrooms:** Public restrooms are not available at every sculpture stop, so it's a good idea to use facilities in Richardton, Dickinson, or Regent before or after your drive.
 - **Nearby Attractions:** Extend your trip by visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the Dakota Dinosaur Museum, or the Medora Musical, all within a short drive from Regent.
- More than just an art exhibit, the Enchanted Highway is a testament to the power of creativity, community pride, and one man's determination to make a difference. Whether you're a North Dakota native or just passing through, this unique destination offers something rare: a genuine sense of wonder. So pack up the car, grab your camera, and take the scenic route this summer. Because sometimes, the road less traveled really is the most enchanted.



NORTH DAKOTA TRAILS

Lake Metigoshe

Beaver Lake State Park

Trails: Beaver Lake Nature Trail, Old Settlers Trail, Woodland Trail, Moraine Loop Trail, Lake View Loop Trail and Rolling Prairie Loop Trail. Beaver Lake State Park's non-motorized trail system covers 5.34 miles in a series of loops and several connecting segment trails that are open for hiking and biking. The Beaver Lake Nature Trail is a self-guided nature trail open to hiking only. Most of the trail system surface is either grass, dirt or hard-packed single-track, with manageable grades with only a few steeper sections.

Bison Plant Trail

This is Minot's little jewel, located a few miles east of Minot off of Highway 52. The 3.5 mile trail is now entirely comprised of single track trail looping through a beautiful stash of city owned wooded land. It offers excellent shade and varies from fast hard pack dirt cruising sections to tight technical sections. Its location just outside of town makes it a great place to go pump out a couple laps after work. There is also a shorter variation of the trail (2.1 miles) used for running. All trails are well maintained.

Black Butte Adventures Trail

Located near Sawyer, this is a beautiful ride that traverses pasture land above the river and climbs over Black Butte. The trail is a tight single track with occasional rock technical sections, and one muddy water crossing. The main loop is about 5 miles and there is a secondary 3 mile loop across the cattle guard in the southwest.

Burlington Walking Path

The Burlington Walking Path is a paved trail through rural, rolling countryside that connects the cities of Minot and Burlington in north-central North Dakota. It parallels County Road 15 for most of its length, which becomes 4th Avenue as the trail approaches Minot.

Cross Ranch State Park

Trails: Matah "River" Trail, Ma-ak-oti "Old Village" Trail, Cottonwood Trail/Gaines Trail, Levis Trail and TNC Self-Guided Prairie Trail. Situated along the west bank of the Missouri River, the 589-acre Cross Ranch State Park and adjacent 6,000-acre Cross Ranch Nature Preserve are one of the few areas in North Dakota to offer a true primitive outdoor experience. Over 16 miles of trail wind through Cross Ranch State Park and Nature Preserve. Trail posts identify the trail names.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

Trails: Scouts Trail System, Little Soldier Loop Trail, Young Hawk Interpretive Trail, Bob Tailed Pass, Little Sioux Trail, Bloody Knife Trail and Nature Trail. Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park's non-motorized trail system covers approximately 6.75 miles in a series of loops and several connecting segment trails that are open for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Most of the trail system surface is either grass, dirt or hard-packed single-track, with manageable grades with only a few steeper sections.

Fort Ransom State Park

Trails: North Country National Scenic Trail, Redetzke Ridge Trail, Pederson Hills Trail, North Fork Trail, Nelson 80, Firebreak Trail, Little Twig Nature Trail, Ridgeline Nature Trail, Valley View Trail, Oak Ridge Trail, Meadow Run Trail, Riverside Trail and Southgate Trail. Fort Ransom State Park's non-motorized trail system covers over 14.64-miles in a series of loops, trails and connecting segment trails most which are multi-use and are open for hiking, horseback riding, biking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. The majority of the trail system surface is either grass, dirt or hard-packed single-track, with manageable grades with only a few steeper sections.

Fort Stevenson State Park

The park offers 8.13 miles of non-motorized, multi use trail which provides a pleasant place to bike, walk, jog and cross country ski. This includes a .22 mile interpretive trail and a .48 mile arboretum trail.

Grahams Island State Park

Grahams Island State Park has two trails for hiking or walking. One is a 1.6 mile loop that can be accessed by the Sivert Thompson activity center. The other is a .5 mile loop located on the north end of the west campground.

Icelandic State Park

A 3/4 mile self-guided interpretive trail begins at the Gunlogson Homestead site and loops along the south side of the Tongue River. Other trails continue throughout the 200 acre Gunlogson Nature Preserve and natural wooded area along the river. Foot bridges provide easy crossing of the Tongue River and the area's many natural springs. The majority of this 3 mile trail system is groomed and open in the winter for cross-country skiing. A 6 mile paved bike and hiking trail connects the park to Cavalier and to the golf course just west of the park.



Little Missouri State Park

Lake Metigoshe State Park

Trails: Old Oak Trail and Multi-Use Trails

Nestled in the scenic Turtle Mountains, on the shores of Lake Metigoshe, Lake Metigoshe State Park was constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s and is one of the most popular year-round vacation spots in North Dakota.

Lake Sakakawea State Park

Several multi-use trails in the park are perfect for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Hikers are encouraged to take in the scenic beauty of the completed segments of the North Country National Scenic Trail found in this park.

Lewis and Clark State Park

Trails: Prairie Nature Trail, North Trail System, South Trail System and Shoreline Trail

On the north shore of Lake Sakakawea, Lewis and Clark State Park is situated among the rugged buttes of the North Dakota Badlands. The park is named for the Corps of Discovery explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The expedition camped nearby on April 17, 1805.

Little Missouri State Park

Little Missouri State Park has over 47 miles of trails for horseback riding and hiking. Horse corrals are available for individuals and groups bringing in their own horses, and several artesian wells are located within the park for horse watering purposes. Trails are marked at major interestions.

Sully Creek State Park

Horseback riders, mountain bikers, and hikers have access to the 120-mile long Maah Daah Hey Trail, which traverses the Little Missouri National Grassland and to the 50 plus mile long Maah Daah Hey II Trail. Those using the trail should carry adequate potable water for drinking. In the early spring or during high flows, canoeing the Little Missouri River also offers a unique perspective of the Badlands.

Tatman Branch Trail

The trail begins on the outskirts of Minot and travels north for 10 miles along the former Tatman Branch Line. The path parallels 27th Street NE for most of its length, offering a straight, flat route through the countryside that ends at Minot Gate, the main entrance to the military base.

Turtle River State Park

Turtle River State Park has a system of mountain biking, hiking, and interpretive trails.

Upper Souris Wildlife Refuge

Trails: Oxbow Nature Trail, Overlook Nature Trail, Cottonwood Nature Trail and Centennial Wildlife Nature Trail

Located 30 miles NW of Minot, the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge has five nature trails for walking and hiking, two canoe trails and one auto tour route.

Long Distance Biking Routes

With its low traffic and excellent country roads, North Dakota is great for cross-country bike trips. For particularly scenic treks, check out North Dakota's designated scenic byways and backways on the N.D. State Highway Map. Before riding, check at area Chamber of Commerce offices, state and federal parks, state and federal Forest Service offices and local bike shops for their recommendations on the best routes.

Some scenic areas to ride in North Dakota include:

- Little Missouri National Grassland
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Lewis and Clark Trail (State highways 1804 and 1806)
- Pembina Gorge/Walhalla Area
- Turtle Mountains/Lake Metigoshe
- Fort Ransom State Park
- Sheyenne National Grassland

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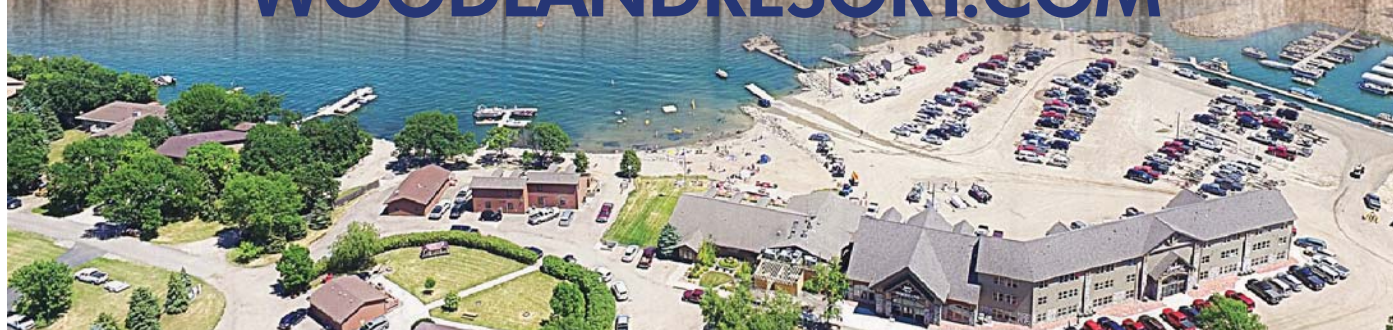
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NORTH DAKOTA FISHING

Fishing off docks and piers for bluegill on Lake Metigoshe is popular in the summer.
N.D. Game and Fish Department Photo

Let's Fish

PATRICIA STOCKDILL

It's almost like stepping into a kaleidoscope of colors and shapes – the wide array of fishing tackle and presentation options lining fishing sections in stores across North Dakota.

It doesn't matter if it's a local convenience store or a diverse business like Home of Economy, summer fishing and its tackle are popular. While many residents hone in on walleye for their great taste, several other species offer options.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department manages more than 400 lakes across the state and here are some tips for area fishing adventures this summer:

BASS, LARGEMOUTH:

When it comes to largemouth bass and their pension for warm water, in North Dakota that means Oliver County's Nelson Lake. "All of Nelson Lake has warm water in it compared to our other lakes," described Game and Fish Department North-central District Fisheries Supervisor Jason Lee.

Five miles east and three miles south of Center, the man-made lake has warm water year-around with abundant forage so warm water loving largemouth bass grow faster there than other lakes. Its natural reproduction is supplemented periodically with stocking, Lee added. Try traditional bass techniques for good numbers of largemouth in a variety of sizes.

Kota-Ray Dam southeast of Ray in Williams County might be a pleasant surprise for anglers in search of nice largemouth bass, as well.



Oliver County's Nelson Lake – and its year-around warm water – provide what could be considered North Dakota's most consistent largemouth bass fishery.

N.D. Game and Fish Department Photo

BASS, SMALLMOUTH:

Feisty smallmouth bass are most often found in Lake Audubon, Lake Sakakawea, Hecker's Lake, any of the chain of lakes associated with the McClusky Canal, and the canal itself.

The McClusky Canal and its lakes - Hecker's, New Johns, East Park, and West Park lakes - feeds from the east side of Lake Audubon. Accessing the canal itself can be difficult, Lee advised, because of its steep, rocky edges. Best shore-fishing access points are off road bridges with a fishing pier on the canal northwest of Hecker's Lake, which is southeast of Mercer in Sheridan County.

Lake Audubon is on the east side of U.S. Highway 83 crossing the Lake Sakakawea embankment. The lake has multiple access points and fishing piers, making it excellent for shore-fishing.

Lake Darling northwest of Minot on the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge might offer up a smallmouth bass surprise for some anglers but remember that as a wildlife refuge, anglers should follow its special regulations such as no camping.

Smallies prefer gravelly substrate and rocky points with crayfish a popular food source. Lee suggests anglers target rocks and riprap from shore, casting small jigs or crankbaits away from shore or pitching small crankbaits towards shore when boat fishing. He also uses crankbaits as large as No. 9 or 11.

Lake Sakakawea also has smallmouth bass. Try areas with gravel and rocky points on the east end of the "Big Lake", such as areas around Sakakawea State Park.

BASS, WHITE:

Devils Lake is the state's "go to" white bass location. The 2015 age class is currently the most abundant population in the lake and fish could range between 14 and 16 inches. However, the upper end of Lake Sakakawea has its share of white bass at times and they love minnows in the spring.

BLUEGILL:

When it comes to this colorful panfish, head north, anglers, head north...to Lake Metigoshe, that is. Tucked in the Turtle Mountains of Bottineau County about 14 miles northeast of Bottineau, Metigoshe's mix of sub-emergent and emergent aquatic vegetation allows bluegill to escape predation. Its good water quality coupled with ample food means the lake has a nice mix of sizes and age classes.

While Lake Metigoshe is the region's premier bluegill lake, it's not the only one. They're also stocked in a few other lakes and while populations aren't strong, "they're slowly expanding," Lee explained. Try Long Lake (also in Bottineau County), Rice Lake northeast of Ryder (Ward County), South Carlson Lake southwest of Minot, Brush Lake three miles north of Mercer, Hiddenwood Lake south of Makoti, or even Nelson Lake.

Don't look for the numbers of fish from those lakes one might find in Lake Metigoshe but they could provide an occasional nice-sized bluegill, in part because lakes such as Rice, South Carlson, and Brush were stocked with adults a few years ago.

NORTH DAKOTA FISHING

While not nearly as abundant as bluegill in Metigoshe, anglers going to Blacktail Dam northwest of highways U.S. 2 and U.S. 85 junction or Northgate Dam northwest of Bowbells in Burke County could also encounter some success. Smishek Lake northwest of Powers Lake has abundant small bluegill numbers – maybe even a keeper hiding somewhere.

Try a bobber with small hook and nightcrawler pieces from shore, casting along the edge of vegetation and letting the bobber float, Lee offered, or casting light jigs and worm pieces and reeling towards shore from boats.



Lake Metigoshe is the place to go in north-central North Dakota for bluegill. The lake's abundant aquatic vegetation, good water quality, and ample food provide some nice-sized bluegill and activity for anglers of all ages.
N.D. Game and Fish Department Photo

CATFISH:

When it comes to catfish in North Dakota, the Red River dividing North Dakota and Minnesota is considered the “go to” destination.

But it doesn't have to be.

Simply head to the Missouri River System, namely the Missouri River tailrace or Lake Sakakawea's back bays – especially those on the upper end around Williston or ones with feeder creeks and tributaries where water warms faster and is more turbid, described Game and Fish Department Missouri River Fisheries Supervisor Dave Fryda.

Native to the Missouri River, channel catfish provide good shore-fishing opportunities on both the river and lake. Given the state's short summers catfish have a short “growing” season. Most average about 2 to 5 pounds, sometimes 7 pounds. “A 10-pounder is pretty big, especially for Lake Sakakawea,” Fryda described.

The fishing pier at Lake Audubon's East Totten Recreation Area provides easy access to shore-fishing opportunities.

Patricia Stockdill Photo

Rainbow smelt are the forage of choice for virtually all of Lake Sakakawea's predator fish and channel catfish are no exception. Fryda suggests anglers try any type of bottom rig with dead smelt.

The best tailrace fishing typically begins in June extending into the fall. The cold water of the tailrace produces excellent eater-sized 2- to 3-pound catfish. Try shore-fishing along the boat ramp or take the road east of Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery to the large pool of water below Garrison Dam spillway where larger catfish may lurk.

Use dead smelt or drift with three-way swivels if boat fishing in the tailrace.

CRAPPIE:

While some areas of the upper end of Lake Sakakawea offer crappie activity, two locations in the region could be considered “go to” spots – Trenton Lake on the south side of the community of Trenton near Williston and Nelson Lake. Williston's John Shunk suggests casting slip bobbers with small jig and minnow or casting traditional crappie rigs. Early season is the best time for Trenton Lake crappie.

Try shallow water of bays for Lake Sakakawea crappie but don't neglect Northgate Dam for crappie.

NORTHERN PIKE:

Summer fishing adventures often begin with northern pike in North Dakota, one of the most common and popular native fish species until walleye overtook the popularity reigns among anglers. “The good thing is they're easy to catch from shore,” Lee suggested.

In addition, pike flourish in high water years when shoreline vegetation becomes flooded. While North Dakota is in the midst of a dry spell, ample northern pike opportunities still exist across the region and there is still time to catch them before they head for deeper water in the summer heat.

Pike success is best right after the spawn, but anglers might still want to try places such as Buffalo Lodge Lake northeast of Granville, Rice Lake, Hiddenwood Lake, Makoti Lake (south of Makoti and close to nearby Hiddenwood Lake), the chain of natural lakes in McLean County - Long, Crooked, and Strawberry lakes - and Lake Audubon - again because of its abundant shore-fishing opportunities. And don't neglect Lake Darling for pike.

Northwestern pike lakes include Smishek Lake and Blacktail Dam.

Now is the time to cast red-and-white Dardevles or large crankbaits from shore, moving out to deeper water in July or August. “The nice thing about pike is they grow fast,” Lee added.

Just a note when pike fishing on Lake Audubon – the lake is stocked with muskie, which are similar in size and coloration to northern pike. Be certain of species identification when keeping pike because all muskie less than 48 inches in length must be released.



TROUT:

Trout aren't native to North Dakota lakes or rivers. They don't spawn naturally in the state, either, so any trout fishery is a result of the cooperative fish spawning, rearing, and stocking program between the Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery below Lake Sakakawea.

The Game and Fish Department stocks several community ponds, including Minot's North Dakota State Fair Pond. Rainbow and brown trout are also in the Missouri River below Garrison Dam.

Spring Lake Park near Williston, Kettle Lake northeast of Zahl, and Stanley and Watford City community ponds are stocked annually.

WALLEYE:

Given their popularity, walleye are the most common fish species across North Dakota lakes and draw the most attention from fisheries managers.

The Missouri River System - Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and the river itself - plus Lake Audubon and Devils Lake are the state's premier walleye fisheries as well as regional destinations for many anglers.

However, other smaller nearby lakes can provide walleye opportunities and may not garner as much attention. Lee suggests places like Buffalo Lodge Lake, Lake Metigoshe, Lake Audubon, Hiddenwood Lake, Antelope Lake northeast of Anamoose in Pierce County, or Clear Lake southeast of Anamoose. A word of caution, though, Lee offered - Clear Lake doesn't have a boat ramp and shore access is limited.

The south side of Lake Audubon is closed to open water fishing because it's part of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Audubon National Wildlife Refuge. Buoys mark the boundary across the water. Even so, Audubon has ample shore-fishing opportunities with a Game and Fish Department Wildlife Management Area embracing the north side of the lake to provide multiple boat access points.

Look for the possibility of keeper-sized walleye from White Earth Dam with an occasional larger walleye from Northgate and Blacktail dams.

Early season is the time to try jigs and minnows for walleye, moving into jigs and nightcrawlers as summer advances. Spinners or slow death hooks with nightcrawlers are typically good summer presentations.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department website, (gf.nd.gov) has just about everything an angler needs to know to help them head to the water for a summer fishing adventure. Simply click "Fishing" on the home page, and then "Where to Fish" for details.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department stocks catchable sized rainbow and brown trout in several community ponds in the state, providing shore-fishing in small and larger towns alike. For example, the North Dakota State Fair Pond has trout, as do ponds in communities such as Stanley and Watford City. In addition, the Missouri River tailrace below Garrison Dam is another good location to test one's fly-casting ability.

N.D. Game and Fish Department Photo



Although walleye are the most-desired fish species among anglers heading to North Dakota lakes and rivers, many lakes across the state offer a variety of other species.

Patricia Stockdill Photo

NORTH DAKOTA FISHING



Adams Lake

Lots of small perch, with some up to 10 inches, and a few Walleye.

Arnegard Dam

Primarily pike, with some larger fish. Some adult perch and an abundance of black bullhead. Stocked with adult catfish in 2016.

Bisbee Dam - Big Coulee

Pike, walleye, perch, bluegill and crappie. Most walleye longer than 16 inches. Good pike numbers with some up to 6 pounds. Most perch are small.

Boundary Lake

Decent number of 6-8 inch perch.

Coal Mine Lake

Good number of northern pike, with some larger fish.

Crooked Lake

Good number of nice sized pike and walleye, with some smaller perch.

East Park Lake

Decent walleye numbers, with some larger fish. Fair number of small to medium sized yellow perch. Bluegill population has increased in recent years.

Epping-Springbrook Dam

Fair populations of northern pike, walleye and perch. Black bullhead abundant.

Fox Lake

Good walleye and perch populations, with larger fish present.

Froelich Dam

Walleye and pike abundant. Yellow perch, crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass present.

Gravel Lake

Pike and perch fishery. Pike average about 24 inches and most perch under 10 inches.

Green Lake

Quality walleye and perch fishery, with a low number of pike.

Harmony Lake

Good number of bluegill, with some quality sized fish. Stocked annually with rainbow trout.

Hatchery Kids Pond

Good shore fishing for early season trout.

Jasper Lake

Walleye up to 25 inches abundant and a fair number of large perch present.

Juanita Lake

Some pike available, but not high numbers. Bullhead abundant.

Kettle Lake

Primarily a rainbow trout fishery, but also contains some brown trout and largemouth bass. Small perch abundant.

Kraft Slough

Walleye and perch abundant.

Lightning Lake

A quality trout fishery, with some large fish. Stocked annually with rainbow trout.

Little Heart Pond

Catchable sized rainbow trout stocked in spring.

McPhail Lake

Small perch abundant and low numbers of walleye present.

Mirror Lake

Stocked fry walleye in May.

Nelson Lake

The best largemouth bass lake in the state. Abundant quality sized bluegill and crappie.

Northgate Dam

Good populations of walleye, rainbow trout and bluegill. Fair number of black crappie and a few largemouth bass.

Odland Lake

Abundant perch up to 1 pound & bluegill up to 1 pound. Abundant young walleye, with some up to a quarter-pound.

Painted Woods Creek

Fair number of northern pike.

Paris Lake

Fair number of perch various sizes.

Rafferty Lake

Walleye up to 18 inches abundant.

Round Lake

Good number of pike and some walleye.



Smallmouth bass can be an underappreciated fish among many North Dakota anglers because of their passion for walleye but they're missing out on a lot of action and good eating. Try some of the McClusky Canal lakes, Lake Audubon, or rocky points on the bays of the east end of Lake Sakakawea.

N.D. Game and Fish Department Photo

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Camping in North Dakota

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Beaver Lake State Park

Located on the west shore of Beaver Lake, the park's gently rolling prairie provides scenic views for leisurely walks. In the summer, the lake attracts visitors for boating, canoeing, water skiing and fishing. Camping, picnicking and water-based activities available from mid-May through the end of September.

Cross Ranch State Park

Located along 7 miles of the last free-flowing, undeveloped stretches of the Missouri River, North Dakota's Cross Ranch Centennial State Park is rich in cultural and natural history.

Downstream Campground

Downstream Campground is located on the east bank of the Missouri River below Garrison Dam, which forms Lake Sakakawea. The area offers a wide variety of recreational activities, including boating, fishing and hunting.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

Rich in both military and early Native American history, Fort Abraham Lincoln was once an important infantry and cavalry post. It was from this fort that Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and the Seventh cavalry rode out on their ill-fated expedition against the Sioux at the Little Big Horn. Portions of the military post, including the Custer House, have been reconstructed. Popular with visitors is On-A-Slant Indian Village. Reconstructed earthlodges depict the lifestyle of the Mandan Indians, who occupied this site from about 1575-1781. A modern campground is located in a scenic wooded area adjacent to the Heart River with picnic sites and playground equipment. Walking along the gently sloping hills, visitors have a panoramic vista of the Missouri River from the park's nature and historic trails. The park also has 4 primitive campsites with horse corrals.



Fort Stevenson State Park

Fort Lincoln State Park

Rich in both military and early Native American history, Fort Abraham Lincoln was once an important infantry and cavalry post. Portions of the military post, including the Custer House, have been reconstructed.

Fort Ransom State Park

The park, nestled in the picturesque and heavily-wooded Sheyenne River Valley, is managed as a natural and scenic area, and is located on one of North Dakota's officially designated Scenic Byways and Backways.

Fort Stevenson State Park

On the north shore of giant Lake Sakakawea, 3 miles south of Garrison, Ft. Stevenson State Park is known as the walleye capital of North Dakota. Visitors will find a modern campground, sleeping cabins, visitor center, interpretive trails and prairie dog town, as well as boat launching facilities.

Grahams Island State Park

The lake features some of the best fishing in North Dakota, both summer and winter. Amenities at Grahams Island State Park include a boat ramp, bait shop, modern and primitive camping facilities and camping cabins.

Icelandic State Park

Located on the north shore of Lake Renwick, Icelandic State Park offers visitors a wide array of recreational opportunities and glimpses of North Dakota's homesteading heritage.

Indian Hills Resort

Offers a variety of Camping and Lodging services from rustic Log Camping Cabins, Tent Camping and RV sites, to fully modern Lodging. Experience Lake Sakakawea's famous Walleye, Northern Pike, Small Mouth Bass, and Salmon fishing.

Lake Metigoshe State Park

Nestled in the scenic Turtle Mountains on the shores of Lake Metigoshe, Lake Metigoshe State Park was constructed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s and is one of the most popular year-round vacation spots in North Dakota.

Lake Sakakawea State Park

Located on the south shore of Lake Sakakawea, adjacent to Garrison Dam, Lake Sakakawea State Park offers a wide range of water based recreational activities and facilities. The park has a full service marina, including convenience store, fishing guide services and boat and camper storage.

STATE PARKS, CAMPING & LAKES

Sunsets in North Dakota
ND Tourism Photo

Lewis and Clark State Park

Lewis and Clark State Park is situated on one of the upper bays of Lake Sakakawea. The rugged buttes of the North Dakota Badlands display a towering backdrop to one of the state's best recreation areas.

Little Missouri State Park

Some of the most picturesque Badlands scenery can be found at Little Missouri State Park. Most of this primitive park is accessible only on foot or horseback. Electrical hookups are available to campers, however, all other facilities are primitive.

Lunds Landing

Beautiful, quaint country setting, genuine hospitality, delicious homemade food, Juneberry pie, pan-fried walleye. Full-service restaurant, cabins, kayaks, canoes, boat rentals, fishing, hunting, birding activities, golfing, camping, tipi camping and Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail. Wireless Internet available in all the cabins and lodge.

Sully Creek State Park

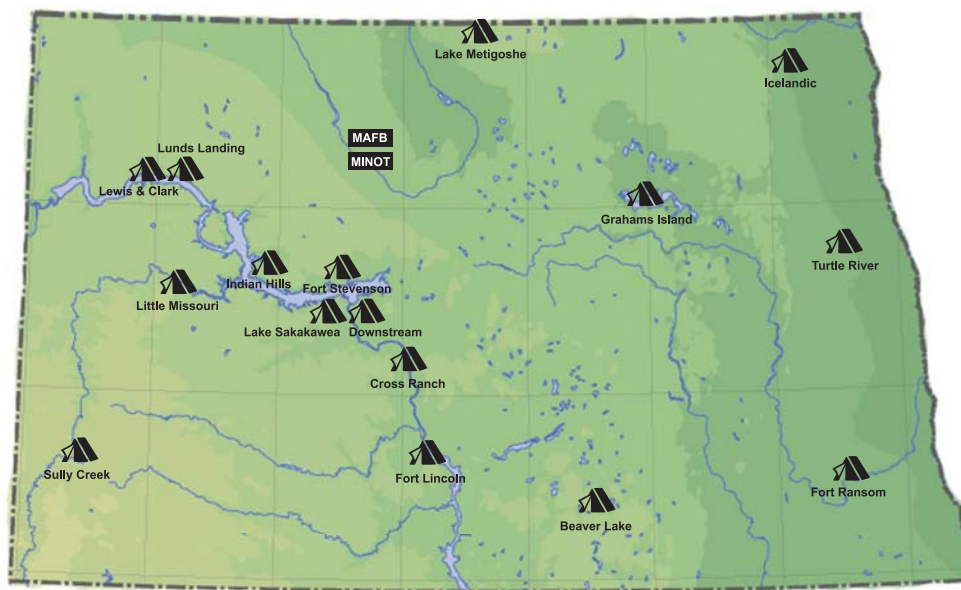
Located in the heart of the North Dakota badlands, Sully Creek is just minutes away from the historic town of Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Corrals are available for those bringing in their own horses.

Turtle River State Park

Situated on the meandering Turtle River, Turtle River State Park is located in a beautiful wooded valley. Constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the park offers year-round recreational activities, including camping, picnicking, fishing and trails for hiking, mountain biking and cross country skiing.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Whether you're an avid camper, a hiking expert or just love beautiful scenery, there is something for everyone to enjoy at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The park spans a total of 70,447 acres and is open year-round, although some trails and facilities are only open seasonally. The North Unit Visitor Center is open daily April to mid-October and Friday, Saturday and Sunday through the rest of the year. Be sure to drive the 14-mile Scenic Drive that leads in from the entrance of the park to Oxbow Overlook. The South Unit Visitor Center is located at the park entrance in Medora, North Dakota. It has an info desk, museum, movie and offers plenty of opportunities to learn about Theodore Roosevelt and his experience in the badlands. A major feature of the South Unit is the paved, 26-mile Scenic Loop Drive with interpretive stops that illustrate the parks history and natural features. Over 100 miles of trail make it a first-class hiking park, although because prairie and grasslands mostly surround the park, water and shade are limited along trails. Some are short self-guided trails while other trails span the length of the park.



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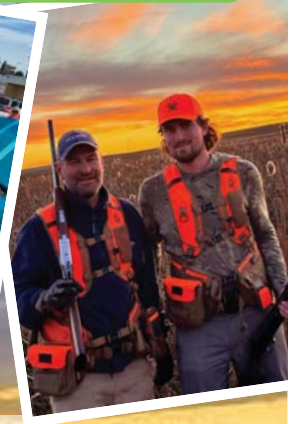
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NORTH DAKOTA DAY TRIPS

Theodore Roosevelt
National Park Wind Canyon

The best place to be in the summer is lakeside. The calm waters provide an abundance of things to do and enjoy. Swimming, fishing, boating, or just hanging out on the shore are all the perfect activities for a sunny day and are hard to surpass in how fun and easy they are to do.

East Arroda Lake

This beautiful spot is in Oliver County and provides an excellent spot for fishing and boating. The area is simply gorgeous all summer long.

Des Lacs Lake

Des Lacs Lake is home to a wildlife refuge as well as recreational areas. These help provide the perfect lake environment for everyone to enjoy. Hundreds of thousands of snow geese stop on their migration to this lake every year and plenty of other wildlife can be seen. Head out to Kenmare, North Dakota and take a visit to Des Lacs Lake and experience it for yourself.

Des Moines Lake

This lovely lake is the perfect spot for some lakeside lounging as well as some fun on the water. There are a couple of lakes nearby as well, so your possibilities are endless in this area. Des Moines Lake is located in Kidder County about 30 miles from Carrington.

Devils Lake

Devils Lake is the largest natural lake in North Dakota and is the best spot for summer fishing. If fishing is not your thing, then you can still enjoy the lake in any way you choose. There are tons of opportunities for all sorts of activities and it's definitely worth visiting again and again.

Lake Audubon

This lake is great for smallmouth bass fishing as well as perch and walleye. It's not only a perfect spot for fishing but also a beautiful spot in general. Grab some rods and check it out sometime!

Lake Darling

Lake Darling is the focal point of the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge located in northwest North Dakota.

Lake Metigoshe

Nestled in the Turtle Mountains, Lake Metigoshe is an absolutely breathtaking spot that is perfect for a stroll or setting out on the beautiful blue waters in a canoe and just enjoying nature and the warm weather. You won't find many places more serene than here, and the environment is picture worthy year round.

Lake Oahe

Lake Oahe extends from South Dakota all the way into south central North Dakota. It has prime opportunities for catching walleye, northern pike, catfish, and white bass. There's plenty of lake to enjoy and plenty of fish to catch here, and it's definitely a spot you should visit.

Lake Sakakawea

North Dakota's largest body of water is one of the top destinations for everything you can enjoy when it comes to seasonal lake fun. Whether you have a sailboat, pontoon, canoe, speedboat, or prefer to experience the shore or take a plunge into the water for a swim, you are guaranteed to have a good time here.

Larimore Dam

Take a weekend trip and camp at this spectacular lake formed from the Larimore Dam. Bring a canoe or kayak and take an early morning adventure across the lake, or just have a picnic lakeside on a pleasant day. There are so many possibilities here to make some awesome summer memories!

Nelson Lake

Nelson Lake is a great place if you are looking for bass fishing. There are both largemouth and smallmouth bass here along with northern pike and crappies. You're sure to get some bites here!

Powers Lake

The town of Powers Lake, North Dakota, is right on the banks of Powers Lake. The lake is an optimal spot for all kinds of summer fun, so get out there and enjoy what it has to offer.

Rice Lake

Rice Lake, near Minot, is a great summer destination for anyone who loves being around water. Swimming, fishing, boating - you name it, this lake is there for. Hang out with family and friends there all day and enjoy a sunset over Rice Lake to complete a perfect summer evening.

Strawberry Lake

Strawberry Lake is located in McLean County, North Dakota. This lake is 144 acres in size. It is approximately 21 feet deep at its deepest point. Anglers can expect to catch a variety of fish including Bluegill, Northern Pike, Walleye and Yellow Perch.



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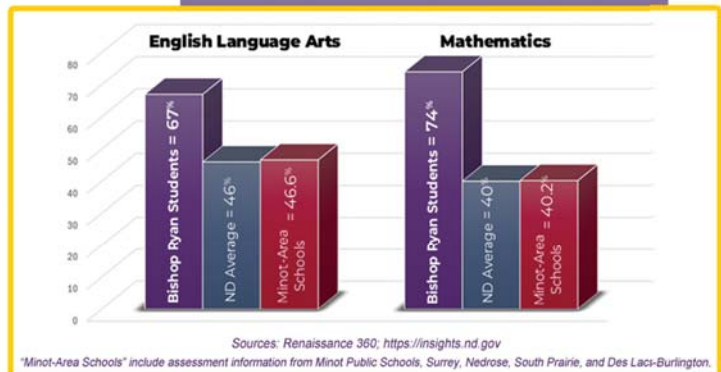
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NORTH DAKOTA ZOOS

Brown Bear Exhibit

Minot Parks/Roosevelt Park Zoo Photo

Chahinkapa Zoo

Whapeton, ND | 1004 RJ Hughes Drive
www.chahinkapazoo.org | 701-248-0812 ext. 3

Hours

Daily 10 AM to 7 PM Through Labor Day
After Labor Day 10A M to 4 PM

Admission Fees

Children Under 2:	FREE
Children (Ages 3-12):	\$12.75
Adults (3+ up):	\$14.75
Seniors (62+):	\$13.75
Military:	\$13.75

Dakota Zoo

Bismarck, ND | 602 Riverside Park Rd
www.dakotazoo.org | 701-223-7543

Hours (weather permitting)

Summer Hours
Late April to Sept: 10 AM to 6 PM daily
Winter Hours
October to Late April: 1 PM to 5 PM Friday-Sunday

Admission Fees

Babies under 2:	Free
Children ages 2-12:	\$11.00
Adults (age 13+):	\$15.00
Seniors (age 60+):	\$14.00
Military (with ID):	\$14.00

Red River Zoo

Fargo, ND | 4255 23rd Ave S
www.redriverzoo.org | 701-277-9240

Hours

Summer Hours
Daily 10 AM to 6 PM

Admission Fees

Children Under 2:	FREE
Children (Ages 2-14):	\$12.95
Adults:	\$14.95
Seniors (60+):	\$13.95

Roosevelt Park Zoo

Minot, ND | 1219 Burdick Expy E
www.rpzoo.com | 701-857-4166

Hours (weather permitting)

Summer Hours
May 9 AM - 6 PM
June-August 9 AM - 8 PM
September 9 AM - 6 PM
Winter Hours
October - April Monday-Saturday 10AM - 3PM

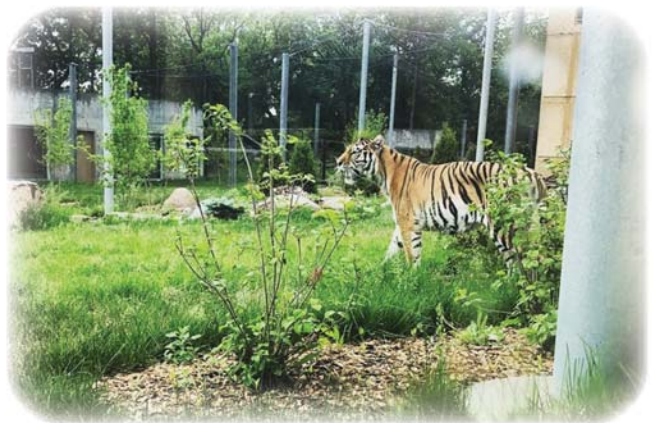
Summer Admission Fees

Children 2 & under:	FREE
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Winter Admission Fees

Children 2 & under:	FREE
Children (Ages 3-12):	\$6.00
Adults:	\$7.00
Military Adults:	\$5.00
Seniors (Ages 60+):	\$5.00
Student (w/ college ID):	\$5.00

Wagon & Stroller Rentals available. Concession on site.



Amur Tiger Exhibit

Minot Parks/Roosevelt Park Zoo Photo

NORTH DAKOTA ZOOS

Wild Wonders Await at Roosevelt Park Zoo

HANNAH WATERS

Summer in Minot wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Roosevelt Park Zoo, one of the city's most iconic and family-friendly attractions. Nestled alongside Roosevelt Park, the zoo offers an unforgettable wildlife experience that blends rich history, conservation, and close-up encounters with exotic animals from around the world.

Founded in 1921, the Roosevelt Park Zoo is North Dakota's oldest zoo and it's still growing, evolving, and surprising guests over a century later. "We've been open for over 100 years," said Zoo Director Logan Wood. "Our very first official zoo animal was a bison, but unofficially, a couple of squirrels were the first residents. Since then, we've come a long way."

So, what sets this zoo apart? According to Wood, it's the only zoo in North Dakota with giraffes. "This summer, you'll be able to feed the giraffes no matter the season," he shared. The zoo is also home to the okapi, a striking and rare relative of the giraffe that's native to Congo. With zebra-like legs and a horse-like body, the okapi is a critically endangered species. According to Wood, "We're the only zoo in North Dakota that has an okapi." Despite ongoing construction and renovations, the zoo houses more than 25 species. One animal in particular stands out. "Everyone knows Cassie," said Wood. This White-Handed Gibbon is over 40 years old. Wood joked, "She's just the loud, obnoxious one who likes to sing." He went on to explain, People today grew up with the older animals, and now they bring their own kids, still remembering visiting Cassie when they were young. She's loved by so many of the Minot locals.

Roosevelt Park Zoo goes beyond entertaining the guests that come daily, it's deeply committed to conservation, both local and global. The zoo supports numerous programs, from pollinator studies in the Midwest to endangered species work in South America and Africa. "We most recently sponsored a watering

hole in Kenya," said Wood. This supports both wildlife, such as giraffes and lions, and the local communities that depend on the water source. Wood said, "We're also working with critically endangered Tapir species." Locally, the zoo contributes to efforts to restore black-footed ferrets, a species once declared extinct.

The zoo also does some pollinator work using the Bumblebee Atlas, which is a conservation initiative brought on by the Xerces society. This initiative is used to help conserve and track bumble bees throughout the United States.

A day at the Roosevelt Park Zoo begins early for the animal care team. "What we say is there is never a typical day at the zoo," said Wood. The staff at the zoo starts their day with a morning debrief before heading out to check on the animals, clean exhibits, prepare enrichment activities, and ensure that every creature is healthy and happy. Enrichment is a big part of the animals' daily lives: puzzle feeders, scent trails, or new toys—all designed to keep animals mentally and physically stimulated. Some of the staff participates in voluntary training for healthcare routines, like vaccines or checkups. In the afternoons, keepers often host "keeper chats", giving guests a closer look at the animals and their personalities.

North Dakota's weather can be unpredictable, but the zoo is built with that in mind. Some animals, like their Amur tigers and leopards, come from cold climates and thrive in subzero temperatures. "Other animals like our giraffes and tigers, they need to stay warm. That's why we just build the new African Plains Building, so that then people can see those animals, which previously they haven't been able to," explained Wood.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning for your 30th visit, Roosevelt Park Zoo promises a fresh, fun, and educational experience every time. "We're a community-based zoo," said Wood. "We listen to our visitors, and we want every visit to be a little different. We're always growing, and we want our guests to grow with us."

Meet Cassie the White Handed Gibbon is the oldest zoo resident at 42 years old.

Logan Wood Photo | Roosevelt Park Zoo



Meet Akili the Okapi

Logan Wood Photo | Roosevelt Park Zoo



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NORTH DAKOTA MUSEUMS

Fargo Air Museum

Bonanzaville USA

West Fargo, ND | 1351 Main Ave W | 701-282-2822
Interpreters and 40 buildings on 12 acres re-create life when “bonanza” farms ruled the prairies in the late 1800s. Bonanzaville USA includes just about every type of building and business that might have made up a small North Dakota town when the area was being settled.

Dakota Territory Air Museum

Minot, ND | 100 34th Ave NE | 701-852-8500
The museum tells a rich and varied story of region’s aviation history. In addition to a replica of the Wright Flyer, the museum displays military and civilian aircraft from 1903 through the present. There are exhibits, narratives, kiosks, military uniforms, aviation items, memorabilia, paintings, photographs and a gift shop.

Dickinson Museum Center

Dickinson, ND | 188 Museum Drive E | 701-456-6225
Dinosaur museum featuring 11 full-scale dinosaur skeletons, including real skeletons excavated from the area, one of the world’s finest real Triceratops skulls, skeletal casts and sculptures. Visitors may also view an outstanding mineral collection from locations all over the world, invertebrate fossils and a real Rhinoceros and bison excavated from the area. The center also contains a history museum that tells the story of Dickinson and southwestern North Dakota. The center contains two exhibit galleries, the Pioneer Machinery Building and the 12-acre Prairie Outpost Park with five historic and six reproduction buildings.

Fargo Air Museum

Fargo, ND | 1609 19th Ave N | 701-293-8043
A premier flying museum in the Upper Midwest. The rotation of historic flyable airplanes. Other exhibits include: History of the North Dakota Flying Aces, North Dakota Air National Guard, cloud modification and agriculture aviation. We also have historical military displays featuring World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Frontier Village & World’s Largest Buffalo

Jamestown, ND | 404 Louis L’Amour Lane | 701-251-9145
Take a step back in time at this re-created prairie town. Original buildings from the frontier villages of North Dakota have been moved to this site and filled with antiques and artifacts that bring the world of the prairie pioneers to life.

Gateway to Science Center

Bismarck, ND | 1810 Schafer St, Suite 1
Gateway to Science is North Dakota’s hands-on science center and children’s museum. Ignite your imagination as you explore our unique gallery containing more than 90 interactive science exhibits. With subjects ranging from robotics to simple machines, real human brain specimen to nanotechnology and beyond, learning is made fun for all ages in an informal environment where hands-on experience is the best teacher.

Magic City Discovery Center

Minot, ND | 1545 1st St NW | 701-858-7529
The Magic City Discovery Center is a hybrid between a children’s museum and a science center. Magic City Discovery Center boasts 12 galleries of 150 interactive exhibits geared towards kids of all ages. Kids can expel energy at the climbing walls and the extensive 37 foot Magic Climber where the peak offers a 360 degree view of the Magic City itself through glass windows.

National Buffalo Museum

Jamestown, ND | 500 17th St SE | 701-252-8648
Seeing one albino bison in a lifetime puts you among a lucky few. Find three of them—in one place—and you must be in North Dakota. The National Buffalo Museum has long been known for its albino cow White Cloud, a sacred animal in many Native American cultures.

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame

Medora, ND | 250 Main Street | 701-623-2000
Native American, Ranching and Rodeo in Medora provides the history and heritage of the trail drivers, homesteaders, rodeo stars, Native Americans and the horse’s impact on plains culture. Recipient of 2010 Best American Cowboy Museum in Sept. 2010.



Dickinson Museum Center

North Dakota Heritage Center

Bismarck, ND | 612 E Boulevard Ave | 701-328-2666
New galleries almost doubled the size of the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. Explore the dinosaur age, native tribes and modern cultural issues. Exhibits in the Treehouse, scheduled to open in 2015, will cater to tykes.

Old Soo Transportation Museum

Minot, ND | 15 North Main Street | 701-852-2234
The museum focuses on the history of transportation in the American West including railroads, automobiles, buses and aviation. Permanent exhibits include BNSF, Amtrak, Great Northern Railway, Milwaukee Road, Northern Pacific Railway, Soo Line/Canadian Pacific, Railway Express Agency and Westland Oil Company.

Prairie Village Museum

Rugby, ND | 102 US-2 | 701-776-6414
This museum at the Geographical Center of North America features 23 historic buildings and six exhibition halls arranged around a quaint village square. The museum's expansive collection includes everything from Native American powwow dresses to antique cars and farm machinery, to a real iron lung.

Railroad Museum of Minot

Minot, ND | 19 1st St NE | 701-852-7091
This museum is dedicated to the railroad history and culture that established many of the state's cities. Displays and artifacts trace the vital impact of the railroads on the communities and the way of life the railroads provided for many individuals. The museum focuses on the time period from 1886 to present and has many hands on displays and information for visitors for all ages.

The Children's Museum at Yunker Farm

Fargo, ND | 1201 28th Ave N 701-232-6102
The Children's Museum offers hands-on exhibits and creative, unique learning opportunities for children and families. The Museum is located at a picturesque farmstead that includes picnic areas, mini-golf, train and carousel rides, children's gardens, nature trails and a playground.

MHA Nation Interpretive Center *Honoring Native Culture*

If you're looking to experience and learn about North Dakota's extensive indigenous culture, be sure to take a visit to the new MHA Nation Interpretive Center in New Town, North Dakota! The MHA Nation, which is comprised of Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation tribes, also known as the Three Affiliated Tribes, is located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in central North Dakota and includes over 16,800 members. The Interpretive Center is a newly developed tribute to the history and heritage of the Three Affiliated Tribes.

"We wanted to have a place where people could physically come and experience our culture, whether it's our own members from our reservation or people from off the reservation... We are a very rich culture and there is so much history and so much more to us than people know. It's an opportunity for people to see the entirety of what we've been through as Mandan, Arikara or Hidatsa people and where our history first began and where it is today, because we're still thriving," said Mykal Drosdal, Marketing Manager.

The center includes a variety of amenities and informative displays, including interactive exhibits and a recording studio for tribal members and elders to record their own stories to pass down for generations to come. They offer traditional catered meals and a coffee shop. It also includes two meeting rooms and a scenic rooftop that overlook Lake Sakakawea to be rented out for conferences, meetings, or weddings. The outdoor amphitheater holds up to 500 people for concerts and events. The MHA Interpretive Center also hosts permanent and rotating galleries that display artifacts and history from the three tribes as well as cultural seminars on beading, traditional agriculture and storytelling. There are also archival rooms for research and preservation of artifacts.

The Interpretive Center held its grand opening on May 19, 2021, and the staff looks forward to planning future events and exposing travelers from all over to the amazing heritage of the MHA Nation. Check out their Facebook page at MHA Nation Interpretive Center. The MHA Nation Interpretive Center is located at 9386 Lake Sakakawea Road, New Town, ND.



MHA Nation Interpretive Center
MHA Nation Interpretive Center Photo

NORTH DAKOTA MUSEUMS



Magic City Discovery Center

Newly opened children's museum
Magic City Discovery Center

North Dakota's first interactive science and children's museum is bursting at the seams with excitement! The glowing building on Minot's North Hill has been beckoning the imaginations of children (and adults) for months. In May 2023, the building officially opened to the public!

Parents won't have to worry about their kids not learning over the summer break because the Magic City Discovery Center boasts 12 galleries of 150 interactive exhibits geared towards kids of all ages. Kids can expel energy at the climbing walls and the extensive 37 foot Magic Climber where the peak offers a 360 degree view of the Magic City itself through glass windows.

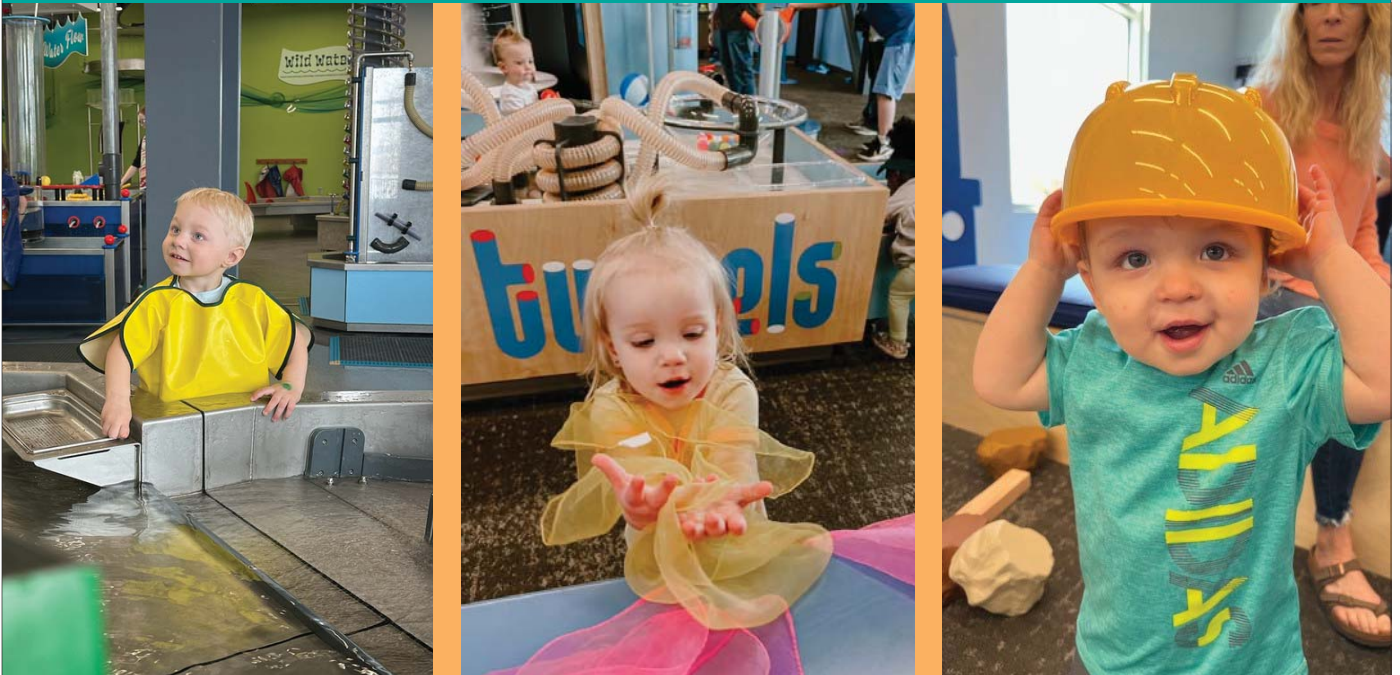
Kids will also experience physical science come to life in the Air Forces gallery where different playscapes offer hands-on learning about wind energy. Although science focused, the Discovery Center also includes a space for the artist to blossom with the Creativity Studio. This gallery "encourages fearless creativity, creative problem solving, and risk as children of all ages explore a wide range of art disciplines with STEAM relationships to both process and products."

They offer yearly family memberships, military discounts and a wide range of open hours both on weekdays and weekends. Come on out and experience the brand new Magic City Discovery Center this summer! The kids will have so much fun you will forget how much they are learning!

Visit them today at 1545 1st St NW, Minot.



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Museum Information

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 10am-5pm
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Open Mid-May to Mid-October

ADMISSIONS

Ages 5 and Under: Free
Ages 6-17: \$5.00
Ages 18+: \$10.00
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Bismarck, ND | 321 W. Broadway Ave | 701-222-6607

Hillside Aquatic Complex

Bismarck, ND | 1719 E. Boulevard Ave. | 701-222-6419

Garrison Swimming Pool

Garrison, ND | 443 1st St. NW | 701-463-2751

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Raging Rivers Water Park

Mandan, ND | 2600 46th Avenue SE | 701-663-3393

Raging Rivers Water park features tube slides, speed slides, a lazy river and a brand new Aqua Play area. It is four acres of wet and wild fun!

Roosevelt Park Pool

Minot, ND | 1215 E Burdick Expy | 701-857-4136

The Roosevelt Park Pool is one the best places to cool off and have fun in Minot. The pool features a waterslide, a wading pool, and a recently finished expansion of the locker room facilities. Roosevelt Park Pool will be closed for the 2025 season.

Splash Down Dakota Water Park

Minot, ND | Dakota Square Mall | 701-837-3115

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Belcourt, ND | 3965 Sky Dancer Way NE | 701-244-5550

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Grand Forks, ND

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June 19-22, 2025
Fessenden, ND

Burke County Fair
June 21, 2025
Flaxton, ND

McLean County Fair
June 23-27, 2025
Underwood, ND

Bowman County Fair
TBA
Bowman, ND

Roughrider Days Fair & Expo
June 25-28, 2025
Dickinson, ND

Stutsman County Fair
June 25-28, 2025
Jamestown, ND

Upper Missouri Valley Fair
June 25-29, 2025
Williston, ND

Pierce County Fair
June 27-29, 2025
Rugby, ND

Mandan Rodeo Days
July 2-4, 2025
Mandan, ND

Red River Valley Fair
July 4-13, 2025
West Fargo, ND

Mercer County Fair
July 7-12, 2025
Beulah, ND

Pembina County Fair
July 9-12, 2025
Hamilton, ND

Tri-County Fair
July 10-13, 2025
Wishek, ND

North Dakota State Fair
July 18-26, 2025
Minot, ND
For tickets and full event details visit
www.ndstatefair.com

Sargent County Fair
July 24-27, 2025
Forman, ND

Morton County Fair
July 30-August 3, 2025
New Salem, ND

Adams County Fair
July 31-August 2, 2025
Hettinger, ND

Ransom County Fair
August 20-24, 2025
Lisbon, ND

Big Iron Farm Show
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West Fargo, ND

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Escape Point

Minot, ND | 18 2nd St NE, Suite 3 | 701-500-0501

An Escape Room is a live-action adventure game where players are locked in a room where they must find clues and solve a series of puzzles in order to escape the room within a set period of time.

Gourmet Chef

Minot, ND | 122 Main St S | 701-839-8928

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High Air Ground

Minot, ND | 4th Ave NW | 701-837-5867

With over 10,000 sq. ft. of wall-to-wall trampolines and five private party rooms, HighAir Ground is the ideal venue for your next birthday party, team party and/or group event.

Margie's Art Glass Studio

Minot, ND | 109 Main Street South | 701-837-8555

Margie's is a locally owned studio bringing ceramics to life in a creative, inviting environment where family and community can gather to paint and create lasting memories. No reservations needed, walk-ins all day from open till one hour before close. Party room available.

North Hill Bowl

Minot, ND | 1901 N Broadway | 701-852-4108

Extremely fun if you want to go for extreme bowling, date night, or to play in a league. NHB is a family friendly 40 lane center! We have a restaurant, bar, and arcade! Fun for all ages!

Oak Park Theater

Minot, ND | 1500 4th Ave NW | 701-852-7469

Oak Park Theater has a long rich history in Minot and strive to keep that tradition going. Check out Oakparktheater.net for current shows and times

The Putt District

Minot, ND | 17 Main St S | 701-852-7888

The Putt District is a family-fun entertainment center in Minot, North Dakota featuring Glow in the Dark Mini-Golf, Arcade Lounge, and Clubhouse. The adventure starts here!

The Spot

Minot, ND | 6 2nd St NE | 701-852-7768

The Spot has 23 pool tables (16 diamond tables 13 cushion billiards table, 6 valley bar box tables) darts, golf simulator, batting cages, and video games.

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Minot, ND | 21 East Central Ave. Suite 102 | 701-852-2937

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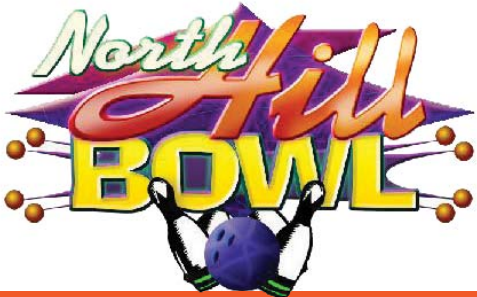
Up Your Axe

Minot, ND | 21 East Central Ave. Suite 102 | 701-852-2937

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Black Sand Golf Course

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701-873-2929

Located on the south side of Lake Sakakawea. The public course, formerly known as Beulah Municipal Golf Course, has been in operation since 1953. Play this 9-hole course twice, and it measures 6,226 yards and plays to a par 70.

Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Medora, ND | 3731 Bible Camp Rd | 701-623-4653
Chiseled into the awe-inspiring North Dakota Badlands, you'll fall in love with the wild and breathtaking scenery that surrounds Bully Pulpit Golf Course, while enjoying a world-class golf experience. This 18-hole venue features five tees, ranging in length from a comfortable 4,750 total yards from the forward tees to a challenging 7,166 at the tips.

Eagle Ridge Golf Club

Williston, ND | 6401 3rd Ave E | (701) 572-6500
Not far from Williston, Eagle Ridge Golf Club offers terrific views and challenging play for golfers at every skill level. Well-groomed fairways and greens keep Eagle Ridge Golf Club difficult yet friendly, and the staff can offer tips and tricks for playing your best round. Eagle Ridge is a terrific choice for your regular rounds of golf, or perhaps a new destination for you and friends when visiting Williston.

Edgewater Golf Course

New Town, ND | 100 Highway 23 | (701) 627-9407
The 9-hole "Edgewater" course at the Edgewater Country Club facility in New Town, North Dakota features 3,278 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 36. Edgewater golf course opened in 1979. Ray Helphrey manages the course as the General Manager.

Garrison Golf Course

Garrison, ND | Hwy 37, | 701-337-5420
Beautiful 9-hole, par-36 golf course. Year-round golf on the new state of the art golf simulator! Nice clubhouse for seating up to 75 people with hot food!

Jack Hoeven Wee Links Golf Course

Minot, ND | 900 Forest Road | 701-857-1570
The Wee Links is a real golf course consisting of nine holes varying from 60 to 120 yards in length. It was designed specifically for kids. Each hole promotes one of the First Tee's 9 Core Values.

Lucy's Amusement Park (Mini Golf)

Minot, ND | 5119 Hwy 83 S | 701-839-2320
Lucy's Amusement Park is a terrific place to have hours of family fun. The park offers the most challenging 18-hole miniature golf course in the northwest, cosmic orbiter, a tower slide, various kiddie rides, disco scooter and moonwalk. Picnic areas are available with bonfire by request. Ride fees set for individual rides.

Minot Country Club

Minot, ND | 1912 Valley Bluff Dr | 701-852-3591
This member only course features four sets of tees ranging from 4,686 yards to 7,029 yards. In addition to world-class golf, Minot Country Club has a new clubhouse featuring golf shop, restaurant, lounge, conference room and locker room facilities. There is a practice facility with short game area, a member pool and other year round family friendly activities.

Pebble Creek Golf Course

Bismarck, ND | 2525 N. 19th St | 701-223-3600
Pebble Creek plays to par 70 with a length of 5,874 yards for 18 holes. This links-style course with native grass rough has water in play on five holes, and big fast greens to test your putting nerves. Pebble Creek is also the site of Fore Seasons Golf Center that features an indoor driving range, pro shop and a batting cage. Club rentals, pro shop, indoor and outdoor driving range, putting green and cart rentals are also available.

Riverwood Golf Course

Bismarck, ND | 725 Riverwood Drive | 701-222-6462
Riverwood is an 18-hole course with tree-lined fairways making for challenging play. From the tips, the par-72 course measures 7,004 yards. The course has been lengthened from 6,929 yards while rating/slope remains the same. The distinction is made by the magazine's nationwide team of course raters, and is an exclusive honor given to public golf courses.

Roughrider Golf Course

Minot AFB, ND | 220 Golf Drive | 701-723-3164
A challenging nine-hole course located near the Base and can be entered directly from US Highway 83. The complex is managed and maintained in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and offers nine holes, a driving range, putting green, chipping green, and picnic area. The club house includes a pro shop and snack bar/lounge.

Souris Valley Golf Course

Minot, ND | 2400 14th Avenue SW | 701-857-4189
The 18-hole "Souris Valley" course at the Souris Valley Golf Course facility in Minot, North Dakota features 6,759 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 72. The course rating is 72.5 and it has a slope rating of 125 on Blue tees.

Star City Golf Course

Velva, ND | Highway 41 North | 701-338-2363
9-holes of golf that is ideal for all levels of golfers and is designed to help you improve your game. You will be able to test your skill set with our numerous water hazards and carefully placed sand traps.

Super Slide (Mini Golf)

Bismarck, ND | 500 Riverside Park Rd | 701-255-1107
Superslide Amusement Park has a variety of activities for everyone to enjoy! Come play a round of mini-golf with friends or challenge your family to a game of Bankshot Basketball. Take a trip down the 6-lane Superslide and soar above the trees on the Ferris Wheel.

The Links of North Dakota

Ray, ND | 5153 109th Ave NW | 701-568-2600
The Links of North Dakota is an example of some of the purest links style golf. This natural, rolling true links design harkens back to the birth of the game – golf as it should be played - in a truly magnificent setting along the bluffs and banks overlooking sprawling Lake Sakakawea.

Thunder Road (Mini Golf)

Fargo, ND | 2902 Thunder Rd S | 701-282-5151
Two unique 18-hole miniature golf courses, both playing up around the volcano, with ponds, rivers and waterfalls. You can have a relaxing round of golf or play competitive style complete with score cards.

Vardon Golf Club

Minot, ND | 7101 County Road 15 W | 701-852-0312
Formerly the Minot Country Club, hosting golfers since 1929 but devastated by 2011 flooding, then rebuilt and rebranded as Vardon Golf Club, this golf course offers a memorable golfing experience for all types of players. Come out for a great round of golf or just to grab some food in the bar/grille.

Wildwood Country Club Golf Course

Burlington, ND | 8401 Highway 15 | 701-725-4653
Wildwood Country Club is an 18-hole regulation length golf course. Offers amenities such as a driving range, pull carts, riding carts, lessons, pro shop gear and great dining.



Pebble Creek Golf Course





VARDON GOLF CLUB

- 18 Holes w/
Full Practice Facility
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VARDON RESTAURANTS

VARDON'S 28 CLUB GRILLE & BAR

Open April thru October

THE FAIRWAY BAR & EVENT CENTER

Open Mid May thru September

VARDON'S CHOPHOUSE

Open Mid November thru Mid March

7101 County Road 15 W, Minot
vardongolfclub.com

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MAGIC CITY CAR
& TRADE SHOW

SAT/10AM-6PM & SUN/10AM-5PM



Practice:

APRIL 12 / 12-4pm

REGULAR-SEASON

SAT, APR 26 / 6PM
OPENING NIGHT

H-SM-SC-ST-M

SUN, APR 27 / 6PM
RACE NIGHT

H-SM-SC-ST-M

SUN, MAY 4 / 7PM
RACE NIGHT **NOSA**

H-SM-ST-M

SUN, MAY 11 / 7PM
MOTHER'S DAY

H-SM-ST-M

SUN, MAY 18 / 7PM
RACE NIGHT

H-SM-ST-M

SUN, MAY 25 / 7PM
RACE NIGHT

H-SM-SC-ST-M

CAR CLASSES

H HOBBY STOCK

SM SPORTMOD

SC SPORT COMPACT

ST STOCK CAR

M MODIFIED

SL SLINGSHOT

L LEGENDS

W NON WING

MON, MAY 26 / 7PM
MEMORIAL DAY/
MILITARY NIGHT

H-SM-SC-ST-M

SUN, JUNE 1 / 7PM
RACE NIGHT

H-SM-SC-ST-M

SUN, JUNE 8 / 7PM
TOUGHER THAN DIRT SERIES

H-SM-L-SL

SUN, JUNE 15 / 7PM
FATHER'S DAY

H-SM-SC-ST-M

SUN, JUNE 22 / 7PM
CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT

H-SM-SC-ST-M

SUN, JUNE 29 / 7PM
WORLD OF
OUTLAW
LATE MODELS

LM-M



POST-SEASON/SPECIAL

FRI, JULY 4 / 7PM
FIREWORKS SPECIAL

H-SM-SC-SL-L-W

SUN, JULY 6 / 7PM
DAKOTA CLASSIC
MOD TOUR &
STOCK CAR TOUR

ST-M

MON, JULY 21 / TBA
NDSF DERBY

"THE ALL-STARS OF AUGUST"

SUN, AUG 3 / 7PM
OLE OLSON MEMORIAL
STOCK CAR \$4K TO WIN
B&B STOCK CAR QUALIFIER

SC-ST-SL-W

SUN, AUG 10 / 7PM
JOHN GAULE MEMORIAL
SPORTMOD \$4K TO WIN

SM-SC-SL-L

SUN, AUG 17 / 7PM
MONTE LUNDY MEMORIAL
MOD \$4K TO WIN / FAST SHAFTS
ALL STAR QUALIFIER MODS

H-SC-M-SL

SUN, AUG 24 / 7PM
BONNIE BEETER
MEMORIAL
HOBBY STOCK \$4K TO WIN

H-SM-ST-SL

MOTOR MAGIC

FRI, AUG 29 / 7PM
MOTOR MAGIC

H-SM-ST-M

SAT, AUG 30 / 7PM
NODAK HALL
OF FAME NIGHT

H-SM-SC-ST-M-SL

SUN, AUG 31 / 7PM
MOTOR MAGIC

H-SM-SC-ST-M-SL



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BANQUET @ 7PM
SUN, OCT 26
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NORTH DAKOTA MOTORSPORTS

Riding Off Highway Vehicles

Registered OHVs literally have thousands of miles of riding opportunities in North Dakota. An off-highway vehicle is any wheeled motorized vehicle not designed for use on a highway and capable of cross-country travel on land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.

Riding is allowed on:

- A paved highway posted with a speed limit not exceeding 55 miles per hour.
- A licensed driver over 16 years of age may operate a registered Class III OHV on a paved highway designated and posted at a speed not exceeding 65 miles per hour.
- The highway right of way, bottom of the ditch or along the outslope. It is illegal to

operate on the shoulder or inside slope.

- A gravel, dirt, or loose surface roadway.

Riding is NOT allowed on:

- Controlled access highways/interstates
- Posted or restricted public/private property that is regulated by local ordinances
- State Parks, State Recreation Areas, Historic Sites or Wildlife Protection and Management Areas
- Tree nursery or planting areas
- Railroad right of ways
- Motorized trails designed and leased for snowmobiles

Public lands open to OHV

- **Pembina Gorge** - Pembina Gorge trails will be open to OHV recreation starting Memorial Day weekend.

- **St. John's OHV Park** - Located NW of Rolla in the town of St. John.

- **Little Missouri National Grasslands** - Riders will find several hundred miles of riding opportunities. OHVs must stay on established roads and trails.

- **Roughrider OHV Trail** - A 16-mile trail managed by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. The trail is located 30 miles south of Mandan on Highway 1806; it begins at the Fort Rice Campground, travels north on an old railroad bed, and ends at Little Heart Bottoms.

- **Kimball Bottoms Recreation Area** - Also known as, The Desert, this 400-acre play area is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is located 8 miles south of Bismarck, ND.



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adrenaline rush!

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RECREATIONAL RENTALS

Paddle On North Dakota | Mandan, ND **Stand Up Paddle Boards**

The stand up paddle board can be as challenging as you make it - can you imagine doing yoga while floating down the Missouri River? It is totally doable!

Canoes

Bringing stuff? Our 17ft Canoes can pack ALOT of gear! They can also fit 2 adults or a few kids.

Kayaks

Kayaks glide through the water with ease. More maneuverable than canoes, they also have some space to stow gear.

Tandem Kayaks

Kayak with a friend... do less work! Paddling is much easier in a tandem. Fits 2 people plus some of your stuff.

Van Hook Resort | New Town, ND **Fishing Boats & Kayaks**

Predator single person fishing kayaks that come with stabilizer bar for stand up casting, fish stringer, raised seat, landing net, rod holders and more! Heron Twin, 2 person fishing or touring kayaks. Sleek and stable design, comfort molded seats. Perfect one or two adults or one adult and a couple smaller children. Heron Junior, single person youth kayak. Stable, safe and tons of fun for young paddlers!

Stand Up Paddle Boards

Walk on water! Stable design for paddlers of all ages and skill levels. Rental includes life jackets and brief instruction for first time paddlers

Woodland Resort | Devils Lake, ND **Fishing Boats & Pontoons**

Alumacraft Fishing Boats, deluxe fishing style Avalon pontoons, and deluxe cruise-fish style Avalon pontoons. All rentals come with fuel, life jackets, landing nets, minnow buckets, and are well maintained and guaranteed dependable. Rent by the day, 1/2 day, or hour. Special week packages. Full-day rentals are required on weekends and holidays.

Fort Stevenson State Park **Garrison Marina**

Aqua Pads, Bikes, Canoes, Fat Tire Bikes, Kayaks, Kicksleds, Motorized Boats, Boats, Pontoons, Paddleboats.

Lake View Lodge | Devils Lake, ND **Fishing Boats**

3- 18 ft Lund Alaskans, with 4 pedestal seats and a 75 hp 4-stroke motor. Side counsels.

Lake Sakakawea | Pick City, ND

The Park rents a variety of recreational equipment including paddle boats, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and wave runners. All equipment is housed and rented at the park swim beach. Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's) are offered on loan for both adults and children.

Dakota Cyclery Mountain Bike Adventures | Medora, ND **Mountain Bikes**

We have a wide variety of rentals - from high end full suspension for the Maah Daah Hey to flat bar road bikes for the nearby National Park Loop to cruisers for hitting the streets of little Medora.

Epic Sports | Bismarck, ND **Bikes**

The Bismarck-Mandan area is filled with bike trails — paved and off-road, just waiting for you to ride. If you're from out-of-town, or your bike is in the shop, consider renting one of our bikes. Our rental bikes are always kept in tip-top shape and are of the highest quality. Our staff will help you select the best bike for you and what you intend to do. We also have bike trail maps available, and can help get you where you need to be to find that perfect trail. We are also one of the last stops before the legendary Maah Daah Hey Trail in Western North Dakota.





EXPLORE MEDORA

Teddy Roosevelt National Park Bison

Medora is located in the Badlands of North Dakota. Plan a vacation to this historical town and enjoy the beautiful scenery it has to offer. Theodore Roosevelt National Park is an outdoor enthusiasts dream offering amazing bike and hiking trails, camping and relaxation.

Family Fun Center

No family trip to Medora would be complete without an afternoon spent at the Family Fun Center! The kids can have a blast on our massive Inflatable Water Slide, catch some air on the bungee jump, scale a kid-friendly rock wall, or soak each other in Water Wars -- a water balloon sling shot stand off!

Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Some courses impose themselves on the landscape, but at Bully Pulpit Golf Course you'll find yourself climbing through meadows and woodlands and meandering along the Little Missouri River, fully immersed in the beauty of the landscape all around you! As you climb out of the shadow of the bluff on thirteen green, our signature holes await. "The Badlands Holes" number 14, 15, and 16 will take you through a rugged fairway gorge. From butte-top tee boxes to a green among a sea of Badlands, this is one golfing adventure you're not soon to forget.



Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Pitchfork Steak Fondue

Every evening our chefs load steaks onto pitchforks and fondue them western style. Savor your steak as you overlook the picturesque Badlands from atop a bluff at the Tjaden Terrace. Your steak comes with all of the fixin's. Plus, you'll be serenaded with western melodies performed live by members of The Coal Diggers from the Medora Musical. Don't miss this unique dining experience that was featured on the national television show, Best Of, on The Food Network!

The Medora Musical

The Medora Musical is the rootin'-tootiest, boot-scootiest show in all the west! There's no other show quite like it. Set in the outdoor splendor of the rugged North Dakota Badlands, this professionally produced, high energy, western-style musical show is proudly dedicated to the legacy of America's 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, and the time he spent here in the Badlands of the Dakota Territory.

Teddy Roosevelt National Park

Encompassing over 70,000 acres of breathtaking North Dakota Badlands, there's an adventure for everyone at TRNP. For starters, drive through the south unit of the park on the 36-mile scenic loop through the buttes and Badlands. The winding drive features striking overlooks with unbelievable views, trailheads for 12 different hiking trails (more on those below), interpretive signs about the Park's history and natural wonders, and real prairie dog towns – plus, you might even get a close up with a buffalo! Experience this unique wilderness through daily Ranger programs which include short talks, guided walks, tours of Roosevelt's Maltese Cross Cabin and evening programs at the campground amphitheater. Or set out on an experience all your own!

Theodore's Dining Room

Enjoy this fresh culinary experience in a historic and elegant atmosphere. You will be in the well-trained hands of our executive chef. Whether you're craving a scrumptious steak, or a refreshing after dinner drink, stop at Theodore's and treat yourself. All taste buds are treated equal at Theodore's. From fresh garden salads and delectable brussel sprouts, to bacon-wrapped steaks and tantalizing buffalo osso bucco, Theodore's Dining Room has something for everyone!

Medora Musical™

60
YEARS

June 4 - September 13, 2025
Get your tickets at **MEDORA.COM**

**DEALS TO
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Kids 17 & Under FREE
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Seniors
15% off Tuesday

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EXPLORE MEDORA

Medora, North Dakota may only have a population of 130 people, but it holds an immeasurable impact on those who visit. Nestled between the rugged buttes of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the bright lights of the city, Medora offers a unique blend of experiences that make it one huge destination.

The vastness of the horizon is one of Medora's most defining features. With its rolling prairies and towering buttes, the landscape is nothing short of breathtaking. It's no wonder that a young Theodore Roosevelt was captivated by the beauty of the area, which later led to the establishment of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The way the horizon expands in Medora is awe-inspiring and has the power to leave visitors feeling both humbled and empowered.

But Medora's charm extends beyond its natural beauty. The town itself has a unique character that draws people in. Despite its small size, there is always something going on in Medora. The summer months are especially busy with nightly performances at the Medora Musical, which has been entertaining audiences for over 50 years. The show is paired with the Pitchfork Steak Fondue which is just like it sounds, great big pitchforks loaded up with steaks and deep fried cowboy style are the star of the evenings menu. The experiences of Medora expand deep into the world of history where visitors can take in the sights at the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame or learn about the namesakes of the town at the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.



Medora buggy rides in Downtown Medora
ND Tourism photo

One of the best things about visiting Medora is the way time seems to slow down. Afternoons move at their own good time, giving visitors the chance to soak in the beauty of their surroundings and disconnect from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It's a chance to unplug and appreciate the simple things in life, like a warm summer breeze or the sound of birds chirping in the distance.

Medora is the perfect year-round destination for travelers. In the fall, visitors can enjoy the breathtaking views of the changing leaves, the slower days and crisper air of a stroll through town. Plus, a special Broadway style show playing at the Old Town Hall Theater in September and October. Winter, brings a peaceful winter wonderland with snowcapped Badlands, a roaring fire at the Rough Riders Hotel, and delectable food at Theodore's Dining Room. Spring brings new life to Medora, with a great view of wildflowers and baby animals, perfect for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Bully Pulpit Golf Course also welcomes golfers mid-April. No matter the season, Medora offers a unique blend of natural beauty, small-town charm, and year-round activities, making it the perfect destination any time of year.



While Medora may be a tiny dot on the map, it holds a big place in the hearts of those who visit. The memories made in this small town are larger than life, and the impact of the experience is immeasurable. From the stunning natural beauty to the unique character of the town, Medora offers a one-of-a-kind vacation that is sure to leave visitors feeling rejuvenated and inspired.

In a world where bigger is often perceived as better, Medora proves that sometimes the most extraordinary experiences can be found in the most unexpected places. So why not plan your next vacation to this little town with a big heart? With 1883 reasons to visit, there's never been a better time to discover the magic of Medora.



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Brake Special



\$25 OFF
Per Axle
(ABS)

Any Brake Service of \$100 or More
(If inspection reveals the need for service.)

Come see us if...

- Your brake warning light is on
- You hear grinding or squealing

- You notice a change in braking pressure

Must present coupon to get this offer. Savings off regular price. Most vehicles. No other discounts apply. Will be deducted from participating retailer's price at the time of purchase. Additional charge for shop supplies may be added. No carryouts. Redeem at a participating Pomp's location. Offer ends 8-29-25.

Computerized Alignment



\$10 OFF
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With Purchase of
Four Tires

Includes:

- Front caster, camber & toe set to manufacturer's specifications, where applicable
- Reference & compensation, or adjustment of thrust line, depending on alignment type

(Many front wheel drive vehicles today require rear wheel adjustment at an additional cost.)
Must present coupon to get this offer. Savings off regular price. Most vehicles. No other discounts apply. Excludes some 4-wheel drive vehicles. Front wheel drive vehicles may require rear wheel adjustment at an additional cost. Vehicles with Electronic Stability Control may be extra. Will be deducted from participating retailer's price at the time of purchase. Additional charge for shop supplies may be added. Redeem at a participating Pomp's location. See store for complete details. Offer ends 8-29-25.

"Sliding Scale" Service Coupon



SAVE!

SERVICE TOTALS:

\$ 50.00 - 99.99
\$ 100.00 - 199.00
\$ 200.00 - 299.00
\$ 300.00 - 499.00
\$ 500.00 or MORE

RECEIVE DISCOUNT:

\$10.00 OFF
\$20.00 OFF
\$30.00 OFF
\$40.00 OFF
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Air Conditioning Service

\$15 OFF
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Any Auto/LT Air Conditioning
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Oil Change



\$10 OFF
Regular Price

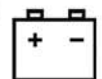


Regular or Synthetic Oil
Change

Must present coupon to get this offer. Savings off regular price. Most vehicles. One coupon per customer per vehicle. No other discounts apply. Will be deducted from participating retailer's price at the time of purchase. Additional charge for shop supplies may be added. Redeem at a participating Pomp's location. Offer ends 8-29-25.

All Batteries

\$10 OFF
Regular Price



Brands may vary by location.



Must present coupon to get this offer. Savings off regular price. Most vehicles. No other discounts apply. Will be deducted from participating retailer's price at the time of purchase. Additional charge for shop supplies may be added. Redeem at a participating Pomp's location. Offer ends 8-29-25.

EXPLORE RUGBY

Prairie Village Museum

The community of Rugby is perhaps known best for being the Geographical center of North America as well as the location for the annual Pierce County Fair. Rugby is located 64 miles east of Minot. Rugby has several places of interest for tourists such as a Museum, Library, Golf course, Movie Theater, swimming pool, parks, playgrounds, hockey arena, baseball diamonds, frisbee golf, tennis court, pickleball court and excellent hunting grounds for waterfowl, upland game, and big game. Each summer, the small town hosts the Pierce County Fair June 26-29, 2025 which invites locals and communities nearby to attend attractions such as the demolition derby, and carnival rides.

From recreational facilities and shopping, to museums and historical landmarks, Rugby has something for everyone. Whether you're here for the day, a weekend getaway or an extended stay, we have the services and attractions to make your visit both

pleasurable and memorable. The Geographical Center of North America was established at (or near) Rugby by a U.S. Geological Survey in 1931. A year later, W. B and E.B. Paterson - assisted by the local Lions Club, Boy Scouts and other volunteers - erected a fieldstone monument at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and N.D. Highway 3 to denote Rugby's geographical distinction. Thousands of visitors stop at the monument each year to snap photos at North America's geographical center.

Take a sip back in time at

Rockin' Relics

soda & fountain diner

Featuring
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Enjoy a seat on our outdoor patio!!

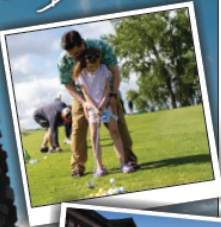
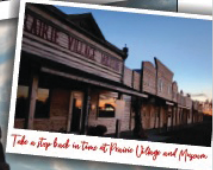
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Rugby, ND Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm, Sat 11am - 3pm



RUGBY

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North Dakota

Take a stop back in time at Prairie Village and Museum

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Geographical Center of North America Rugby, ND

Contact our Convention & Visitors bureau to get the latest

Rugby Chamber of Commerce
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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www.RUGBYnorthdakota.com



Prairie Village Museum

Prairie Village Museum is open!
Call 701-776-6414 for more information.

Rugby Lions Music in the Park

Ellery Park
7pm beginning June 4 and every Wednesday through August 20.

Rhubarb Festival & Car Show

Prairie Village & Museum
Sunda, June 8, 2025

Smackdab Motorcycle Run

Saturday, June 21, 2025

4th of July Parade

Friday, July 4, 2025

27th Annual Chamber Softball Tournament

Saturday & Sunday, July 12 & 13, 2025

Octoberfest

Saturday, July 13, 2025

Balta Street Dance

Saturday, August 3, 2024

14th Annual Daryl Kuhnhehn Memorial Ride

Saturday, September 6, 2025
Follow them on Facebook at Daryl Kuhnhehn Memorial Ride for updated information or call 701-208-0066

Wine Walk

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Prairie Pumpkin Patch

September 20-21, 27-28 and October 4-5th, 2025
Saturdays from 10-6 and Sundays from 12-6
Food Trucks daily Call 776-5846 for more info

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THURSDAY 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

FRIDAY 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

SATURDAY 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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EXPLORE WATFORD CITY

Watford City
Watford City Photo

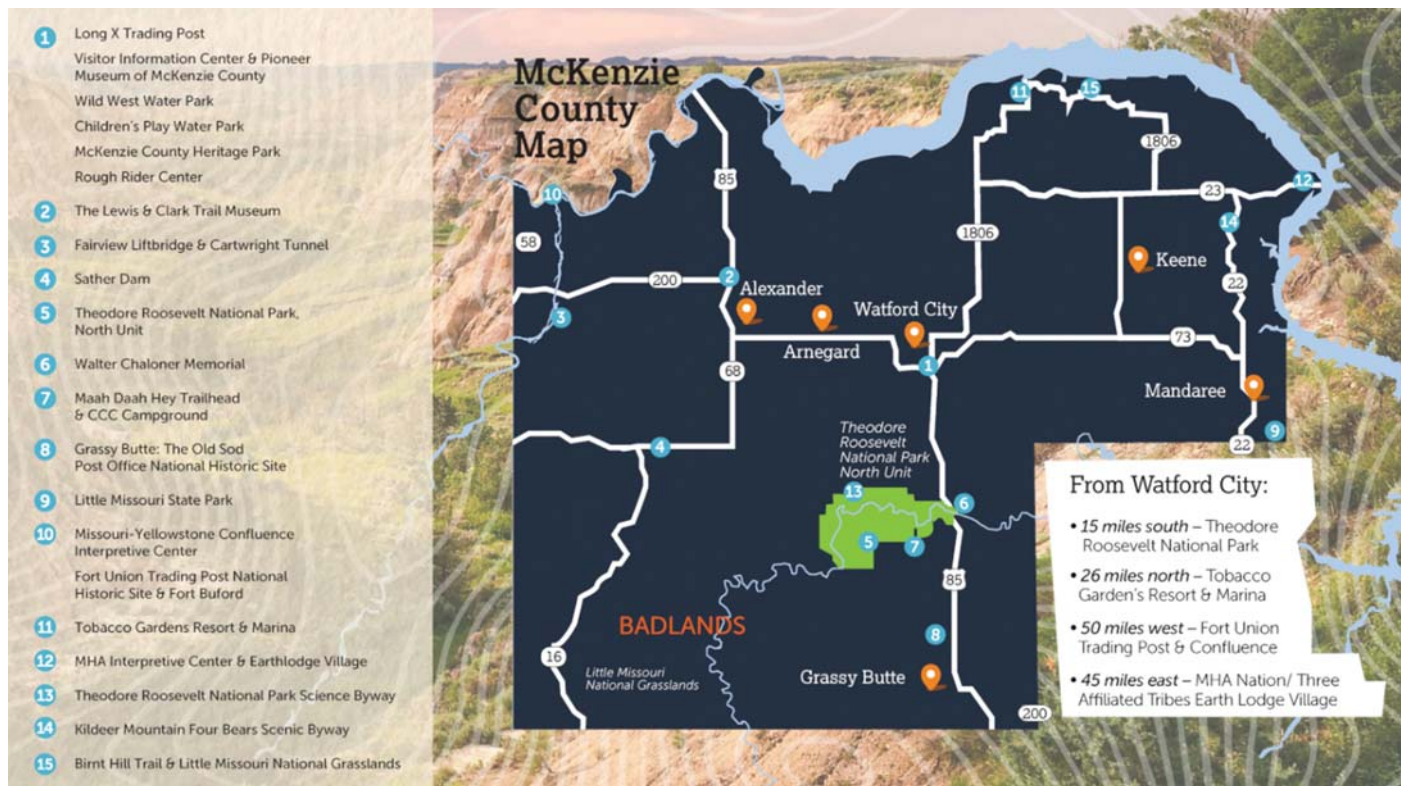
Searching for an all-around destination for your summer adventure? Look no further than Watford City, North Dakota! Watford City is located in McKenzie County, about 2.5 hours west of Minot Air Force Base. Whether you're looking for a cultural experience, fun for the whole family, or an outdoor adventure, Watford City has it all.

The historic city is nestled in western North Dakota near some of the state's most popular attractions, including Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Tobacco Gardens Resort and Marina offers local camping, kayak rental, fishing and boat access. Walk or bike the Maah Daah Hey Trail for a taste of North Dakota's majestic terrain.

Take a day off to explore downtown Watford City and you'll find a variety of local shops with hand crafted gifts and North Dakota treasures. The Wild West Water Park has water slides, a splash pad, and a variety of swim activities for some family fun on those extra hot days. Grab a bite to eat and settle down with a drink at one of their unique restaurants, coffee shops, or even the local brewery.

For the history buffs, Watford City has many attractions nearby for visitors to learn about North Dakota's rich past. The McKenzie County Heritage Park sits on six acres of land and includes historic buildings from all over the state and is now open year-round. Nearby, the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site and Fort Buford State Historic Site offer a glimpse into the history of life on the frontier with original structures and informative (and sometimes interactive) exhibits. Take a tour of a Native American earth lodge and learn more about North Dakota's Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. At the nearby Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, you can hear stories from cultural interpreters and even spend the night in an earth lodge to experience the heritage of North Dakota's indigenous peoples.

To learn more about all Watford City and McKenzie County have to offer and even take a virtual tour, visit www.visitwatfordcity.com. Plan your trip Watford City today to experience small town charm with big-city attractions!



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EXPLORE SOUTH DAKOTA

The Other Dakota: Worth the Drive

A road trip must for everyone at Minot

ERIN BEENE

Badlands National Park awes with varied landscapes and lots of hiking possibilities

Erin Beene Photos

I'm a traveler now. I wasn't always. After we were stationed at RAF Mildenhall, England, about 10 years ago, I uncovered a European attitude that I wasn't aware existed. The Europeans (much before Covid) all seemed to adopt a traveling spirit that I hadn't found in the 25 years I lived in the US. Traveling to new countries and places, taking a "holiday," was something the Brits and Europeans seemed to do all the time. Yet I knew many people growing up that had never even left the state of Texas, some never even traveling beyond a 200-mile radius. But as anyone who has lived overseas will tell you, travel is much more commonplace. So, after a first year of a colicky baby, my small family and I gave in and joined the travel epidemic around us. I was awed by the new worlds that greeted me. Thus, like so many before me, I fell in love with travel.

Since that time I have made it my mission to use our home base (wherever that may be) and find the coolest places we can visit in the surrounding areas. Knowing we will only be in each place a short time, it gets my travel engines pumping. After surviving my first Minot winter this past year, I needed to get out of town, and fast. But where could we go? What was affordable, driveable and kid-friendly? Looking slightly south in an attempt to warm a tiny bit, my family and I settled on none other than South Dakota!

The state of South Dakota is massive and, unlike its upstairs neighbor North Dakota, there were a lot of places that popped up when I Googled "Places to Visit in South Dakota." We only had six days, and we knew we wanted to visit our good friends stationed at Ellsworth AFB near Rapid City, so I started our trip in that area. Day one started a little after sunrise and ended at our first destination of Deadwood in the Black Hills. The drive was only about seven hours from Minot, but I do need to add that when driving anywhere for long distances in the Dakotas, get gas wherever you can! I know it is crazy expensive nowadays and probably even more so in these backroads towns, but trust me. We learned the hard way that gas stations are not readily available in the North Dakota state highways and backroads. If you see a gas station on a long journey, top off,

just to be safe. Back to Deadwood. Deadwood is known for its late 1800s gold rush and the legendary lawmen and outlaws that roamed the area. The town itself is tiny, but there are lots of hotel options in town to choose from. We stayed near the main street as we wanted to be within walking distance to the attractions. We visited the "Days of '76 Museum" which had a lot of kid friendly activities and information about the original settlers in Deadwood. It's worth a visit if you like museums. Since we visited in May, we were a little bummed to find out that many of the Deadwood classic activities were not yet open as the tourist season had not yet begun. If you like to do things in the off-season to avoid crowds, like us, you may be disappointed with Deadwood. I would suggest going during the crazy summer months with the rest of the tourists to get the full shows, and experiences.

After exploring everything we could in Deadwood we took off for Spearfish. We happened upon Spearfish City Park and my kids (ages 9 & 6) had a blast! If you've got kids, this playground will wow the entire family and is worth a stop. Outside the playground area was a little creek bed where we spent some time skipping rocks. While it was too chilly for wading, I imagine it is a popular splashing spot in the summer. We had to pull



Spearfish City Park is a Must-Stop for Kids



We loved the historical sights in downtown Deadwood.



The Presidents Walk in downtown Rapid City, a free and educational adventure.

our kids away from the playground to explore the newly-named D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery. We were skeptical about this place, but it actually ended up being really informative and interesting! Make sure you bring some quarters to get fish food and check out the re-made train car that used to transport fish all over the US. The fish hatchery is a really educational and free place to stop!

Our first evening in Rapid City we ventured out to the Dinosaur Park. It's a little bit of a steep climb to see the dinosaurs and toddlers may need some strict attention, but once at the top, the panoramic views of the city were amazing! This was

a cool place to see but won't take up much of your time, so it's an easy 15-20 minute time filler.

Since we are a homeschool family, most trips end up being a bit educational. We have been studying the US Presidents and South Dakota has so much President information that we decided to make it the theme for our trip. Early on a cloudless, sunny morning, we headed to downtown Rapid City, intent on locating every single statue of American Presidents which are scattered within a few blocks downtown. A walking tour map can be located online at visitrapidcity.com. We printed this and started our adventure.

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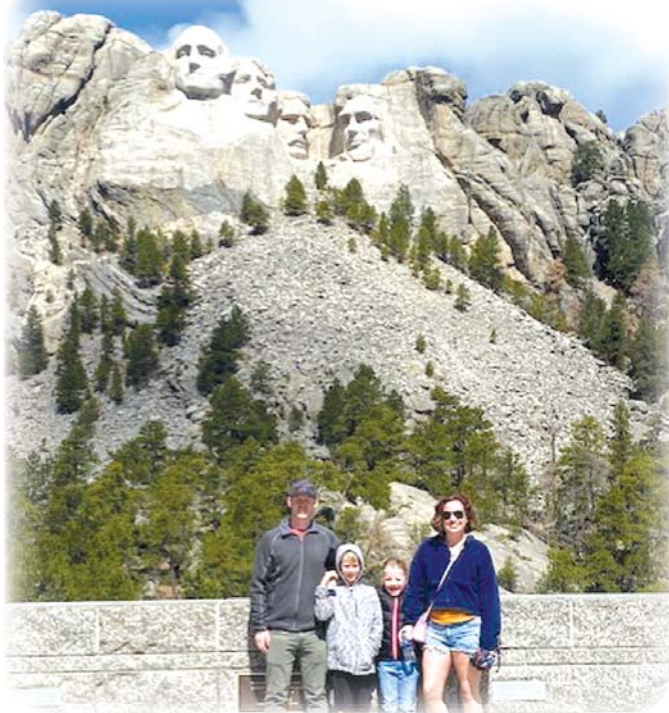
SOUTH DAKOTA



Retired, glass covered missile silo on the road will be a highlight for any military enthusiast.

Yep, we found every single President (except Trump and Biden who haven't been made yet) and it took us a little less than two hours. This was honestly one of the most fun parts of our trip! My kids love a good checklist, so the hunt for all the presidents was a cool historic activity for us. Even if you don't think your family is up for the entire hunt, stopping and seeing at least a few is worth it for all ages. I'm not much of a foodie, so the places we ate were generally quick. But while in downtown Rapid City we did stop at Firehouse Brewing Company for some amazing food (they also have their own brewery and winery), and you definitely need to stop at Mary's Mountain Cookies for some absolutely delicious and unique flavor cookies! After our day downtown I dropped off my husband and kids at our friends' house who live at Ellsworth AFB, and my friend and I spent Mother's Day afternoon at the Prairie Ridge Golf Course outside Ellsworth AFB. This 9-hole course offers club rentals, great prices for military personnel and beautiful scenery. I'm a pretty poor golfer. For me it's all about the fun and company, but this course works well both for serious golfers and beginners. We had a blast!

Our 4th day in South Dakota was our busiest. We headed out to the Presidential National Wax Museum in Keystone. Since our trip revolved around the Presidents this was a must see! The whole family enjoyed seeing the realistic scenes as well as recording a mock-state of the union address video. We had a full day planned, but just looking around, there were so many cool things to do in Keystone including the Big Thunder Gold Mine and Rushmore Tramway Adventures and lots more. If we went again, I would plan for an entire day in Keystone for sure! After the museum we visited the much-anticipated Mt. Rushmore! While both my husband and I had been there before, our kids hadn't, and for some reason my six year old was amazed! As any parent will tell you, sometimes kids get excited about weird things and aren't into things you'd think they love. Well my daughter loved Mt. Rushmore and that in itself made it a highlight of our trip. The top gets a bit windy and maybe chilly so make sure and bring a jacket if the weather is iffy. Also be sure not to skip the walking trails. After Mt. Rushmore, we drove down to Crazy Horse Memorial and learned a lot about how and why it was and still is being built. After that we planned to drive through Custer State Park, but we decided at the last

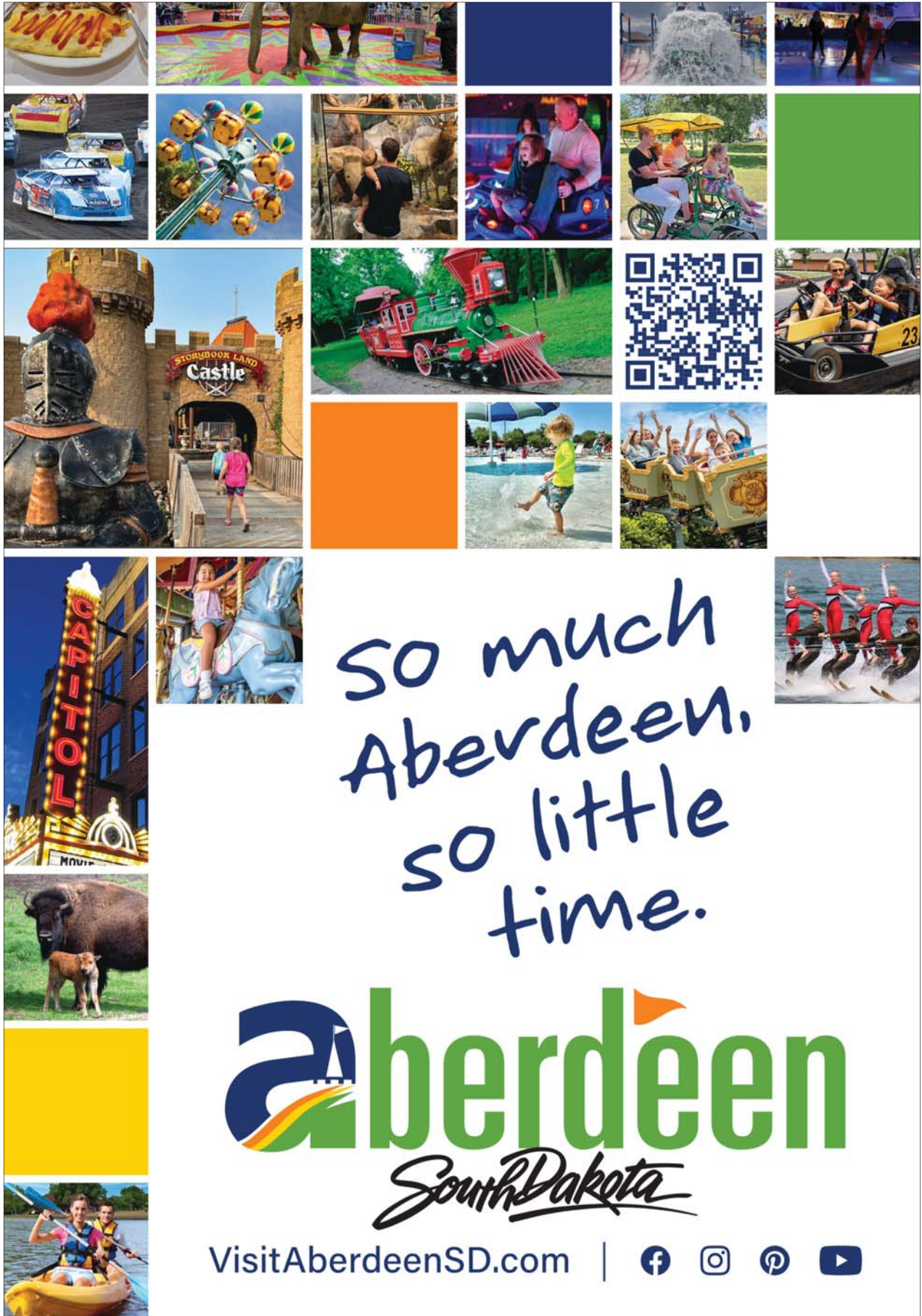


Family photo at Mt. Rushmore

minute to take a detour to Evan's Plunge Mineral Springs in Hot Springs instead. It was out of the way, but we wanted to give it a whirl. The indoor pool features water slides and naturally warm mineral water from a thermal spring. The place itself was a bit dated, but the kids loved it. The water was chilly, but the unusual atmosphere made it a different type of activity for us and a much needed break in sight-seeing.

On our 5th and last day we headed out to Badlands National Park. Having younger kids, we're not all-day hikers, but the landscape there offered so many different types of visuals and mini hikes... it was a sight to see! We spent several hours there. On the way back to Rapid City we stopped off on the side of the road to see an old, retired missile silo. My husband and probably many other military members found this refurbished and glass ceiling silo to be a cool part of the trip. The silo even has a tour guide out there waiting to answer questions. It is worth stopping for those military enthusiasts and only takes a few minutes. The billboard advertising around the route also led us to stop at Wall Drug on the way back. I think we had the wrong impression of what it was going to be, but we were a bit miffed when what we found was a maze of trinket shops instead of a large and welcoming convenience store. But we got some ice cream and enjoyed the sun anyway.

At the end of the epic South Dakota vacation we were tired and happy. There was so much more to see that we didn't get a chance to, and western SD has so many options for visitors. Even with our full four days we couldn't see near enough. I think this area requires two full-sized trips, but it's definitely a place for families, hiking enthusiasts, motorcycle people (we drove through Sturgis) and really everyone. All I know is that a trip to the western part of South Dakota needs to be on everyone's list. The history, varying landscapes and tourist destinations make it a must see road trip for any Minot AFB resident.





Seaman-y fun things on your road trip!

Journey to Fort Mandan in Washburn to see a larger-than-life statue of Seaman, Meriwether Lewis' Newfoundland dog, then visit the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. Keep traveling to Bismarck and stop at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum to explore the state's rich history.

history.nd.gov/visit



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A turtally epic adventure

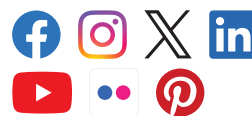
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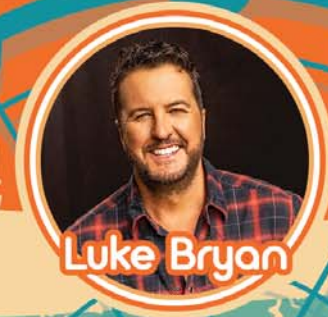
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